35b-1942

MICHIGAN

DETROIT HIRES WOMEN ON STREET CARS

The Chicago Bee

35b

DEC 6 1942

DETROIT, Dec. 10—(ANP)—While management in most of the industrial plants in this area steadfastly refuse to employ Negro women, skilled or unskilled, on one pretext or another, the Detroit Street Railway system has gone on record as being perhaps the first street railway system in the country to employ Negro women as conductors.

The system first broke the ice by putting on Negro men as conductors several months ago due to a shortage of white eligibles who could acquire the jobs in war plants when Negro men were being refused. The men made good from the start and now there are more than 700 motormen, conductors and bus operators in the service.

DEC 6 1942

Still feeling the shortage of man power, the company turned to women and Negro women, since receiving the training along with other groups, are being placed on many of the city's main arteries and are making good, in the capacity of conductors.

ALABAMA

35c-1942
Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Ala. Union Votes Fight On Jim Crow

MAY 2 - 1942

BIRMINGHAM—A demand that discrimination against Negroes in labor circles and war vocational training be abolished was voiced in a resolution passed Wednesday as the 41st annual convention of the Alabama Federation of Labor came to a close.

The convention also asked an end for the poll tax, federal aid to the schools so that equal educational opportunities may be provided and operation and creation of a Negro unemployment compensation bureau in Mobile.

R. F. Finkey, Mobile, and James Hampton, Sheffield, were chosen Negro vice presidents at large.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

8 Workers, Wrong Color, Embarrassed

JUN 20 1942

FLORENCE, Ala.—A mistake is a mistake, is a mistake, is a mistake, to follow in the idiom of a Gertrude Stein.

Anyhow that's what eight colored WPA workers of this city learned last week. That is, they learned that a mistake is a mistake.

Seems the workers each received letters from work relief headquarters in Decatur to report to the employment office of the Gardiner-Warring company.

Gardiner-Warring is a white concern which manufactures knit goods and heretofore had employed only white girls. The WPA workers were aware of the firm's employment policy so were both elated and surprised. How surprised they were to be comes later, but not too much so.

Reporting as per instructions the damsels were actually taking required aptitude tests when an excited and embarrassed attache of the firm called them outside.

There had been "a mistake!"

And a mistake is a mistake, is a mistake, is a mistake. The WPA office had been asked to prepare a list of WHITE women—the concern doesn't use Negro girls.

So-o because their God had willed it that their skins were black, and—a mistake is a mistake, is a mistake, is a mistake.

Gadsden, Ala., Times
August 12, 1942

Race 'Conspiracy' In South Charged

NEW YORK, Aug. 12.—(AP)—A conspiracy in the Southern states "to incite racial violence and destroy national unity so vital to the successful prosecution of America's war effort," was charged in a telegram from the Greater New York Industrial Union (CIO) to President Roosevelt.

The teelgram, signed by Joseph Curran, president, and Saul Mills, secretary of the union, said, "rejection of a large war contract by the governor of Alabama because of the governments non-discrimination policy; the call by certain agents for the emergence of a 'White Supremacy League'; attacks upon Negro soldiers; incitement of white and Negro workers in war plants against each other; beating of CIO representatives are part and parcel of this conspiracy against national unity."

35c-1942

CALIFORNIA

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Company Won't Confer With Union Because Negro Is On Committee

JAN 31 1942

LOS ANGELES.—(ANP)—J. Stuart Neary, attorney for the Los Angeles Railway corporation, ordered a Negro member of a CIO negotiating committee out of his office this week and refused to meet with the committee if the Negro attended the conference, Local 156 of the Transport Workers union charged. A few minutes later the committee walked out of Neary's office.

To discuss settlement of the current union dispute on the railway—in which 114 men have been fired for union activity—the Workers union had scheduled a meeting with Neary to arrange for carrying out of the details of a U. S. government offer which would reinstate the fired men.

JAN 31 1942

Neary, notorious for his alleged anti-union activity in Los Angeles, agreed to meet with the committee until he saw Troy Black, vice president of the union, and a memberes of the three-man bargaining group

The 350 pound Neary became almost apoplectic when he saw Troy Black, and thundered "Get that man out of my office."

The C.I.O. union said, "Neary's outburst was in keeping with his un-American attitude—practiced these many years here. We have known for years of his Hitlerian tactics in dealing with labor unions and this evidence of his prejudice against the Negro people fits with his other anti-American feelings.

"Troy Black is a member of our committee and he will continue to be a member in any dealings we have with the company."

Basis of the dispute on the railway is the charge that the company is attempting to force employes into a union not of their choice—a company union.

JAN 31 1942

The C.I.O., in an effort to settle the dispute peacefully, appealed to U. S. Conciliation service, a branch of the labor department. The C.I.O. accepted the recommendation of the government, but the company so far has not.

---

pittsburgh, pa.

REFUSED TO TRAIN NEGRO; SUSPENDED

pittsburgh Courier

SAN FRANCISCO, Mar. 19—(By Lena M. Wysinger for ANP)—Motorman John D. Costello, who has been employed for 17 years by the municipal railway, received his first blemish on his record recently by being suspended for four days when he refused to instruct 21-yr-old Audley Cole, Jr., Negro applicant for a platform job.

Suspension of Costello was in line with an order by the municipal utilities manager last Friday providing for increasing periods of layoff followed by "filing of charges looking toward dismissals, if necessary," for repeated refusal to train Cole. Ten platform men have already been given two-day layoffs for such refusal.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

Threaten Strike Over Hiring of Negro Motorman

MAR 20 1942

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., Mar. 17— Lester B. Granger, Executive Secretary of the National Urban League, today called to the attention of William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, the threatened strike of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees of America, in San Francisco, which would completely tie up transportation in that key port of defense.

The proposed strike is being called because the union objects to accepting as a member a Negro who has been certified by the city for the job of motorman. The letter also pointed out that seven other A. F. of L. unions important to defense are impeding vital war production because even though there is a shortage of labor, and Negroes are qualified for the job which they perform, these unions continue to maintain "white only" clauses in their qualifications for membership.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Insults Cause Worker To Quit

LOS ANGELES —(ANP)— Insulted and humiliated almost beyond human endurance by employes of the Sante Fe Cigar Company when she was hired by the company as a cigar roller Tuesday morning, Mrs. Felice Soublet was forced to leave the factory floor lest her burning resentment and indignation boil over into drastic action that would get her into serious trouble.

Mrs. Soublet, who was the first Negro woman to be hired by the company as a cigar roller, received a telegram to report to work Tuesday morning and when she put in her appearance the plant went into an uproar. Girls, mostly of European extraction whose homeland is feling the heel of Hitler, passed her with slurring remarks such as "N---s Stink." "Dirty N- - - s'" "I refuse to work with them."

Some of the more American employes of the plant tried to sympathize with an encourage her, but they were only one or two out of the 400 employes.

Irony of the situation is that Mrs. Soublet's son, here only means of support.

35c

35c-1942 D.C.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Jim Crow Keeps 200 Stenogs on U.S. Payroll Without Work

JAN 17 1942

WASHINGTON

War Department officials this week hinted at an imminent showdown in the situation which for the past several weeks has kept about 200 colored stenographers and typists in a state of enforced idleness despite their having been placed on the departmental payrolls.

After dozens of complaints had been received by the AFRO from persons who declared that they had been certified to the War Department by the Civil Service Commission, sworn in by the department, placed on the payrolls, then assigned to no work, an explanation was sought from officials there.

Jobs Promised in Few Days

Truman Gibson, assistant to Judge William H. Hastie, a civilian aide to the Secretary of War, admitted the existence of a reservoir of several hundred colored typists and stenographers who, although already employed by the War Department, have not yet been assigned to work.

Mr. Gibson further stated that these persons would all be assigned to various departmental agencies within the next few days.

Questioned concerning the delay in their assignment (some of them have been reporting to work daily since December 19), Mr. Gibson admitted that "considerable unwillingness" to accept colored stenographers and typists had been met with in several agencies.

Say Segregation Urged

"These girls," Mr. Gibson declared, "have been appointed in the War Department and will be assigned to work in the department as soon as it is possible to take the necessary steps."

He then stated that segregated work groups had been urged by many of the agency and division heads who had been opposing the use of colored workers in their particiular sections.

A. N. Onthank, director of civilian personnel for the War Department, informed the AFRO that the girls had been certified to the department by the Civil Service Commission and that they had been placed in the pool as they came off of the Civil Service register.

"Playing Ball" with Jim Crow

"We have been requested by several agencies to notify them several days before sending over large numbers of colored girls, and we have been 'playing ball' with them to that extent."

"All of the girls in the pool, however," he added, "will be assigned within the next few days."

He then pointed out that several hundred colored stenographers have passed through the pool within the past two or three weeks and that the delay in assignment of those yet remaining has been occasioned by an effort to filter them into the department with least possible friction.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

Whites Fail in Try to Oust Library Worker

AUG 1 1942

WASHINGTON

Diminution of race discrimination against colored employees of the Library of Congress is seen as a result of the defeat of efforts to dismiss Beth Major because he insisted upon treatment as an equal by his white fellow workers.

The outcome of the Major case is regarded as significant because it shows the possibility of liquidation of long-standing grievances of colored employees through appeals procedures established by Archibald MacLeish, Librarian of Congress, and the backing of the United Federal Workers of America.

There is still a number of colored employees, however, who have worked there for years without promotion and college graduates who are assigned to messenger and custodial jobs.

2 Ouster Attempts Fail

Major faced two attempts by his superiors to have him dismissed from the library. Efforts to get rid of him were backed by a formidable-looking document of fifteen pages containing detailed errors he was supposed to have made over a period of seven months.

The appeals board appointed in his case heard more than a dozen witnesses on both sides and was unable to find evidence supporting these charges.

The Library administration took cognizance of his difficulties last spring when threats of personal violence were made against him by a white fellow-employee and he asked his union, Local 28, UFWA, to represent him in a conference with John H. Moriarty, chief of the Accessions Division, and Herman H. Henkel, director of the Processing Department.

The offender was reprimanded and Mr. Henkel issued a request to his staff to observe, while at work, the amenities of office intercourse. This incident grew out of Mr. Major's calling by their first name persons who so addressed him.

On one occasion he addressed a woman clerk by her first name after she had addressed him as "Major." She became physically ill and had to hurry to the first aid room. Then followed the threats which brought an official reprimand to the aggressor.

A few white staff members, including Miss Anna May Stambaugh, his immediate superior, refusing to permit the incident to remain closed, compiled the charges against him and recommended his dismissal, resulting in his suspension pending final disposition of the charges.

The appeals board ruled that the charges had not been sustained and recommended reinstatement of Mr. Major with back pay. Dr. Luther Evans, acting librarian, accepted this recommendation. Shortly after reinstatement, Mr. Major received an "unsatisfactory" rating, tantamount to dismissal.

Has Rating Reversed

The union contended that Mr. Major's alleged inefficiency had already been proved false, that it would be wasteful and unfair to compel him to appeal again through normal channels and Dr. Evans agreed and recommended revision of the rating.

After hearing Mr. Moriarty's defense of his action, the board recommended a rating of "good" for Mr. Major, making him eligible for salary advancement up to the middle of his grade.

The charge of "impertinence" made against Mr. Major has roots in the whole situation of colored employees in the Congressional Library. For years it has been virtually impossible for highly educated colored employees to achiev professional standing there.

Some Get Promotions

As a result of President Roosevelt's order prohibiting race discrimination in the Federal service, Mr. MacLeish's similar order to the library staff and the insistence of the union, a few promotions followed, one or two to "junior professionals" at $2,000 a year.

Major also began to insist upon his rights. If fellow employees felt intimate enough to address him as "Major," he replied with "Smith" or "Mary."

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Photos Out; But Government Bureau Has Codes To Indicate Non-Whites

OCT 24 1942

WASHINGTON — (ANP) —Negro workers are complaining of the treatment they are receiving at the hands of underlings who belong to personnel departments of the various governmental bureaus here.

Applicants, who felt that the abolition of the photograph from civil service blanks solved their racial problems, are finding themselves being carefully checked and scored by symbols indicating racial identity in one bureau.

When questioned as to why three crosses in red were placed behind the name of every colored worker referred in this particular department, the interviewer said it was for the personal records of the department.

OCT 24 1942

Another department requires all persons accepted for work to file an application blank giving personal history and a photograph taken within the past two years. This department, the National Labor Relations board, has sent out many such letters and calls attention particularly to the spot for the photograph.

The first department using the triple cross method of identifying Negro workers is the war department. Several complaints have been lodged, but thus far no results have been obtained.

Nation
New York, N. Y.

Jim Crow in Washington

OCT 24 1942

Dear Sirs: I am sure you are familiar with the Jim Crow situation in Washington, which has been such a blot on the country in peace time and which has become more of a disgrace—as well as a positive danger—now that we are at war.

OCT 24 1942

The capital is now suffering from a shortage of trained street-car and bus operators: accidents have increased, frantic appeals are made for operators, and men are being brought in from other cities, adding to the overcrowding. But only white men are allowed to become street-car and bus operators. There are in Washington many qualified Negroes, familiar with the city, but the Capital Transit Company flatly refuses to hire them.

To rectify this situation the Committee for Jobs for Negroes in Public Utilities has been established here. It plans to utilize agencies such as the Fair Employment Practices Commission to mobilize public opinion and to provide a channel through which qualified Negroes can be mobilized for these jobs when the time is ripe.

OCT 24 1942

We feel this is an important fight, vital to the war effort and to the aims of the war. If any persons would like to give financial assistance, checks or money should be sent to the committee. care of the Y. M. C. A., Twelfth Street, N. W.

CHARLES E. GAGNIER,
Publicity Committee

Washington, October 15

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Probe Jim Crow In War Dep't

NOV 6 - 1942

WASHINGTON. D. C.—(SNS)—The Washington Bureau of the NAACP is investigating persistent rumors that Negroes are being discriminated against by the Allowance and Allotment Branch of the War Department. This Branch is moving its offices from Washington to Newark, New Jersey, early in November. It is understood that it employs nearly 1,800 Negroes out of its staff of 7,000.

It is alleged that the Negro employees have been discouraged from transferring with the office under the guise that the housing accommodations for Negroes are inadecates that, while housing facilities in Newark are equally acute for white employees, there has been no effort on the part of the officials to deter the whites from going.

NOV 6 - 1942

As a part and parcel of the determination of the Allowance and Allotment Branch to keep Negroes from transferring to Newark, it is reported that many Negroes who insisted upon going have been given termination notices on the ground of inefficiency. Efficiency ratings are being issued in spite of the fact that many of those graded have only been employed for several weeks and, in some instancesfi have been assigned to to the supervisor or other rating officers for a very limited time.

Conversations have been had with Col. Talley Joiner in the office of the Executive Office of A. and A. and with Capt. M. A. Besler, Public Relations Officer—both of whom deny that any discrimination has been practiced in the matter of rating Negro employees. It is admitted, however, that more Negro girls received notices of termination because of low efficiency than whites.

The Newark Branch of the N. A. A. C. P. has been requested to make an investigation of the housing facilities in Newark for Negroes, the ratio of housing facilities for prospective Negro transferees to white transferees, and purported opposition of the City of Newark to immigration of Negro government employees.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

FBI Budget $29,000,000 but Won't Employ You

FEB 14 1942

J. Edgar Hoover's Organization Excludes Colored Clerks and Agents as Vigorously as the Lily-White Navy.

35C

WASHINGTON.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, in increasing its clerical staff on account of the national defense program, has reportedly turned away hundreds of colored applicants for jobs as messengers, clerks, typists and stenographers, while hundreds of whites have been taken on in these same positions.

Appropriations for the current fiscal year cover 4,152 employees in the Washington FBI offices. Of that number, 4,042 are clerks and 110 are special agents. None is colored. The few colored employed in the bureau as messengers and chauffeurs are old employees.

FEB 14 1942

$2,150,000 for Staff Additions

The First Deficiency Appropriation Bill, now pending in Congress, carries $2,150,000 for additional personnel and other expenses for the FBI for the remainder of the present fiscal year. This is in addition to a companion item of $3,800,000 pending in the House Appropriations Committee for the fiscal year, 1943.

The item of $2,150,000 will raise the total appropriations for the FBI for the current fiscal year, emergency and regular, to $24,100,000 and will necessitate a budget of $29,636,787 in the next fiscal year.

The new amount makes provision for 2,168 additional employees—1,250 clerks and 918 agents—who, when recruited and added to the present staff, will bring the total to 10,019 employees—6,414 clerks and 3,605 agents.

The Green Light for FBI Critics

The FBI may undergo a Congressional investigation soon which, if it materializes, will be concerned with the responsibility of the bureau for the Pearl Harbor debacle. However, it will also afford an opportunity for critics of the bureau's hiring pollcy to point out alleged violations of the President's executive order barring discrimination in government employment.

FEB 14 1942

Unless the charge is aired before a Congressional investigating committee it is not likely that any colored will be hired when the 2,168 additions are made to the bureau. The FBI budget, like the navy budget, is drawn from funds created by the taxes paid by all citizens.

WAR DEPARTMENT ARTIST CLASSIFIED AS 'CLERK'

Courier — Pittsburgh, Penn.

35C FEB 7 - 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 5—Lanky 22-year-old Francis Jackson, of 1622 Ninth street, Northwest, classified as a clerk in the War Department, Quartermaster's Corps, whose work as a commercial artist and cartoonist has come to the attention of his superiors, is a symbolic example of colored youth wasting their time in minor positions while the government cries for skilled workmen.

Jackson's talent first became known in War Department circles several weeks ago when a notice on the bulletin board in the Railroad Retirement Building, Third and D streets, Southwest, urged all cartoonists to submit samples of their work.

FEB 7 - 1942

All who submitted work were white, except Jackson. His samples were regarded the best and a drawing of his is scheduled to appear in the current issue of "Army Times", an unofficial publication of Army life.

After his ability was revealed, Jackson has been called upon to do sign work for displays seen in various spots about the huge building, and draw designs for column heads.

FEB 7 - 1942

Meanwhile, Jackson's classification remains the same, although he says that he has been "promised" a classification commensurate with his ability, which he eagerly anticipates.

PRAISED BY CAMPBELL

The youth's work has drawn the commendation of E. Sims Campbell, renowned artist of "Esquire". For a year, he was cartoonist for "Flash". a magazine which once flourished along the Eastern Seaboard, and for three consecutive years, Jackson won first prize in the Robert T. Freeman Dental Society poster contest.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Fed Up

Girls Quit Capital Positions

APR 4

WASHINGTON, (ANP)—Disgusted wth the "cracker" tactics customary to this city, many colored girls who were assigned to war work here as a result of civil service examinations have thrown up their jobs and gone back home. As a result many are back on former jobs and glad to be there, according to those who have remained here in spite of the insults and innuendoes thrown their way.

Case after case has been called to the attention of various "personnel" officers. They seem to be able to do little to remedy the situation when confronted with the facts and colored girls continually complain of the unfairness of the situation.

While hundreds of competent colored stenographers are being used as file clerks, punch card operators, the government is setting up a school for defense training in stenography—but it is for white only.

Time after time, the girls tell their stories and in practically every case, the theme is the same, only the method may be slightly varied.

Capable and competent stenographers, unless they are working in an office where there are other colored girls and bosses, find themselves cornered off and doing work no other girls are asked to do.

——A Colored Judge——

35C

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Charge OPA With Discrimination In Employment

Edgar Brown Says Wide Disparity Against Negroes

WASHINGTON, D.C.—(A N P)—Charging that Chicago is a "typical illustration" of widespread discriminatory practices of the Office of Price Administration, Edgar G. Brown, director of the National Negro council, last week laid squarely before President Roosevelt and OPA Chief Leon Henderson the nation-wide situation as uncovered by the council during a recent survey.

AUG 28 1942

Negroes are discriminated against in rationing, price and rent control activities of the OUA, and are not represented in proportion to their number of OPA price and rationing boards, Brown declared.

N. N. C. director, who promised to present a petition signed by 100,000 residents of Chicago's South Side asking that the January 1, 1941, rents be used as the ceiling price instead of March 1, 1942, said that Chicago is one of a few large cities to have rents frozen for the later date. He further charged that it was "discrimination to act under the federal law arbitararily on one date for one area of people and not afford the same relief to others in a similar plight in another city."

Chicago, with 50 price and rationing boards, representing 3,000,000 people, has only [illegible] Negro employes on these boards, and not one supervisor, despite the fact that there are approximately 275,000 Negro residents in Chicago, about one-tenth of the citizenry, Brown said.

AUG 28 1942

The council's survey disclosed that Negro war workers in Chicago find so few places to live they are forced to double up in one and two room kitchenettes on 24 hour shifts, paying $18 to $20 per week, and sharing bath and sanitary facilities with several other families, Council Director Brown observed.

Dr. Earl Dean Howard, Chicago rent control director, refused to comment on Brown's charges, and Michael F. Mulcahy, Chicago OPA administrator, could not be reached for a statement.

AUG 28 1942

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Charge Bias As Hundreds Lose Jobs In War Dept.

NOV 7 - 1942

352

By **HARRY McALPIN.**
(From Defender Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The trek of War Department workers in the Allowance and Allotment Division has started to Newark, N. J., and many employes find themselves "holding the bag" in Washington, left behind and charged with "inefficiency."

This is said to be the climax of two weeks of confusion, intrigue, and subtle discrimination at the expense of hundreds of Negroes, mostly girls, who had been called to Washington for work in this newest of War Department division. They were all appointed as the result of Civil Service examinations, which they passed. Many who were told they could not be taken to Newark because ratings of "inefficient," have been working less than six weeks. Some have been transferred to two or three different units in that time.

The "rating" angle was hit upon after "scare" stories of the lack of housing space for Negroes in Newark failed to dampen the enthusiasm of enough of the workers concerning transfer to Newark, it is said.

Even posting of a news article from a Newark daily paper on the bulletin board in the building occupied by several units of the Allowance and Allotment Division, in which the War Department was scored for bringing so many Negroes into Newark, did not scare off enough of the colored workers.

Despite ratings of "inefficient," workers are being told they will be given other jobs in Washington. Some of those given this information had already won up-grading, and others have been told by their immediate supervisors of their "splendid" work.

NOV 7 - 1942

Cases Under Advisement.

In the meantime, several of these discriminatory cases were reported to the Office of the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War. That office has some of these cases under advisement, but nothing has been done about them.

Judge Hastie made a hurried trip to Newark last week to "investigate." But while he was out of town the Army brass hats shifted their strategy from a cry about housing shortage to an attack on the efficiency of the workers—with a scattering of white workers called "inefficient" to allay any charges of discrimination—just in case Judge Hastie should find some way of taking care of the housing of these workers as a result of his trip, it is charged.

Officials of the Allowance and Allotment Division have been reluctant to talk about the matter, or have given misleading information. One colonel, who was known to have called several of the girls into his office and to have talked to them about their "inefficiency," told the Defender that no such notices had been issued, and that the Defender had apparently been misinformed.

Judge Hastie's office, however, admits that such notices were issued.

Job Discrimination Charged To Washington Bus Company

P.M. NEW YORK NY

FEPC Says Transit Company Won't Hire Negro Drivers Despite Shortage of Help

No. 123, 1942

PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23.—President Roosevelt's Fair Employment Practice Committee, which has been exposing racial bias in the Nation's war plants, today will tackle a major case of discrimination in the City of Washington.

352

The committee is meeting to draft a formal complaint against the Capital Transit Co., operator of the buses and trolleys that carry thousands of war workers to their jobs each day. Since Washington isn't blessed with subways, Capital Transit's vehicles transport everybody except taxi-riders or car-owners.

But despite a labor shortage that threatens to cripple the company's operations, the Capital Transit Co. refuses to hire Negroes as bus drivers, trolley conductors or in any skilled or semi-skilled capacity, the FEPC complaint will declare.

For weeks the transit company has been advertising in newspapers here and plastering buses with frantic appeals for workers. The ads and the posters emphasize that no experience is needed. But Negroes—even experienced Negroes—need not apply, the FEPC finds. They won't be hired even if they have been driving all their lives.

Nov. 23, 1942

Accident Risk Rises

There has been no visible change in the company's policy despite the inroads of the draft and the departure of veteran employes for jobs in war plants, the FEPC has learned. White men whose experience is confined to riding kiddie-cars are being groomed for jobs as drivers. The possibility of serious increase in the accident rate (it's already pretty perilous to drive through Washington streets) is foreseen unless Capital Transit agrees to hire all available operators—even if they're black.

The FEPC's impending crackdown on the transit company was foreshadowed last night, when the committee issued a formal opinion holding that trolley and bus systems are "defense industries" and therefore subject to the provisions of President Roosevelt's anti-discrimination executive order.

The opinion also served notice that radio broadcasting firms and telephone and telegraph companies are under the jurisdiction of the FEPC. P.M. New York

"The opinion was sought," Dr. Malcolm S. MacLean, FEPC chairman, said, "because of the complaints which we have received from Negroes, Jews and aliens that they have been refused employment in the communication and transportation industries solely because of their race, religion, or foreign background."

The committee's ruling declares:

"From the very nature of the services they render, it is apparent that radio, telephone, and telegraph companies, and the Capital Transit Co., are essential to the defense program and must be treated as defense industries."

Elaborating its concern over the Washington transit situation, the committee warned that "without transportation of Government workers to and from their jobs, the entire defense program would be hampered seriously."

Public hearings on the Capital Transit Co.'s employment policies will be held shortly after issuance of the complaint. The company is a private corporation, operating under a franchise from the city.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

AMERICAN YOUTH COMMISSION ISSUES REPORT ON NEGRO YOUTH

Says Negro Overcome Discrimination and Other Handicaps in Any Occupation They Are Able To Get Into

FEB 7 1942

FEB 7 -1942

WASHINGTON—(ANP)—A report released Monday by the American Youth commission on the "Youth and the Future" reveals that with all the problems of occupational adjustment experienced by white youth and the additional complication of discrimination based on race, Negroes have been successful in overcoming these handicaps in virtually all occupations which they have been able to enter. The report called particular attention to the fact that most occupations above the unskilled level can be entered by Negro youth only with great difficulty.

FEB 7 -1942

The 15-man commission headed by Owen D. Young of the General Electric company and of which Dr. Mordecai W. Johnson, president of Howard university, is the only colored member, further revealed that with the recent expansion of employment, Negroes have benefitted but not in proportion to their numbers. However, the recent presidential proclamation against "discrimination because of race, creed, color, or national origin" and the provision of a federal committee to investigate, persuade and recommend non- discriminatory policy, while held to be helpful in creating openings formerly closed to Negroes, still are not effective in fully wiping away the disadvantages incident to employment of colored in defense industries. Negroes generally are still deeply discouraged over the situation, because the current expansion of employment so far has seemed to confirm their previous disadvantages more than to relieve them.

The commission, however, believes that the problem is one which will remain acute for many years, but advocates that it should continue to receive the attention and assistance of employers and unions in making them aware of their obligations to pursue policies of justice in making decisions as to employment. In strategic positions to achieve this end are the schools and public employment offices, who should bend every effort toward securing opportunities for Negro youth on an equitable basis.

Calling attention to a previous statement wherein the fact that Negroes were largely excluded from supervisory and administrative positions in the CCC was disclosed, the commission stated that although white enrollees have been promoted to such positions in recent months, there is still a general reluctance to appoint Negroes above positions of leader enrollee. Its recommendation of vigorous action to increase the use of Negro supervisory and administrative personnel in camps for Negro enrollees was again affirmed.

FEB 7 -1942

Looking toward the industrial centers of northeastern states and the Pacific coast, the commission revealed that youth unemployment is no longer a problem in these areas for competent youth 18 years of age or older, except in cases of Negroes and other minority groups for whom opportunities are restricted by discriminatory practices of employers and of organized labor. In some states where Negro population is concentrated, there is only one colored youth among 10 of high school age in school.

The need for federal aid in providing educational opportunities for children of minority races was stressed by the youth body. Reviewing the general condition in some 17 states where segregated schools for Negroes are provided, the report brought out that these schools are characterized by "markedly shorter terms, grossly inferior housing and equipment, substantially lower salaries for theachers, and distictly inequitable financings in all all respects as compared with schools for white children in the same states." Sompared with the support and quality of schools in more fortunate states, states which segregate students have, as a whole, inferior schools, though most o fthese states devote larger proportions of their local revenues to schools than average states.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Conference Called Against Railroad Discrimination

APR 30 1942

CHICAGO — (ANP) — Preparation to help make available workers for the railroad industry needed in the present emergency and to end jim crow and discrimination against Negroes and other minorities in the railroad service was launched Thursday following a conference between Willard S. Townsend, president of the United Transport Service employes, A. A. Timms, representing the International Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers, Local 570, and Ishmael P. Flory, field organizer of the National Negro congress.

APR 30 1942

The conferees made plans for a Chicago conference against discrimination in the railroad industry to be held at 10:00 a. m. Saturday, May 2.

35c

Opens to all railroad workers regardless of race, color or creed who are willing to fight this practice, the conference will deal with the question of the exclusion of Negroes from certain trades in the railroad industry, such as electricians, firemen, switchmen, machinist, engineers, etc. This conference will be a preliminary step to calling for an investigation of discrimination by the railroads by the President's Fair Employment Practice committee. In a statement to the press, Willard Townsend, chairman of the arrangements committee, declared "Discrimination against Negroes in the railroads by railroad managements has long been a notorious practice. It involves not only the matter of the denial of jobs to Negroes but also the exclusion of Negroes in certain jobs in the past years. This practice by the railroad is not in line with the effort to win the war; it obstructs national unity and weakens national morale. It is like an enemy within weakening the American people in the face of the Hitler danger. It is even more vicious in face of the need for help in railroads which are so vital to our defense."

APR 30 1942

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

FDR Is Told Of Discrimination Against Trainmen

Says Agreement Closes Jobs To Negro Workers

MAY 10 1942

LOUISVILLE—(ANP) —An Illinois Central freight train brakeman, Thomas D. Redd, this week informed the Associated Negro Press that he had written to President Roosevelt, protesting the systematic and apparently planned elimination of Negroes from train, engine and freight yard service in the south.

Redd said he was prompted to write his letter because of the President's fair practice statement that all firms and corporations engaged in national defense production should not discriminate against any class of American citizens on account of race, creed or color.

After reciting the importance of American railroads to successful prosecution of our all-out war effort, Redd's letter in part is as follows:

MAY 10 1942

HIDE BEHIND LAW

"I wish to state that these southern line railroads are carrying on a program of discrimination of the rankest type against true natural born American citizens, (the Negro or colored employes) and they are doing this under a National Law enacted by the congress and senate of these United States, known as the Railway Labor act of 1926, and revised in 1934.

"The law referred to provides among other things that a majority of a class or craft of railway workers may make an agreement or contract for that whole class or craft, thus leaving the minority of that class or craft without any redress whatever, because the ma jority (the white workers) will invariably make the agreement favorable to the majority and unfavorable to, and discriminatory against the minority (the colored workers.)

"As evidence of the effect of the aforesaid law unless it is changed. it will only be a short time until all Negro workers will be eliminated from train engine, and freight yard service, because the law permits it to be done.

NEGROES BARRED

"The law states specifically that the majority of the craft shall have a right to make an agreement for that whole craft, therefore the majority of the craft (the white workers) and the railroad managements have made an agreement by which the railroads cannot hire or employ any more colored men for train, engine or freight yard service, regardless of the qualifications of the men who apply for such service.

"The majority (the white workers) have made another agreement with the railroad managements by which a dismissed colored worker cannot be reinstated, regardless of how trivial the cause for dismissal

"This majority (the white workers) and the railroad managements have made another agreement by which a colored trainman cannot be assigned to a train as its flagman, regardless of qualifications; for example, we have run a special passenger train and we have only two trainmen available with rest up, John Smith (colored) with 25 years experience as a trainman and who has been examined time after time upon the flaging rules and a man who knows the physical characteristics and running rules of the railroad over which the railroad train is to be moved.

NO NEGRO FLAGMEN

"And we have J. W. Johnson, (white)who has only been in the service one month and who does not know the stations on the district one from the other as yet, however he will be assigned to this special passenger train as flagman instead of John Smith, because the agreement forbids the use of colored men as flagman, thus jeapardizing the lives of passengers and employees and the safety of the railroad property, all just to carry out the unholy, unrighteous and unAmerican provisions of this notorious agreement.

"Not being content with the above unfair practice of depriving the colored worker of his just rights as a loyal and faithful servant, the majority of the craft (the white worker) and the railroad managements have entered into another agreement to restrict the seniority rights of the Negro workers and bar us from many jobs and that we cannot work on this little branch line and on that little branch line, where the white workers have full exercise of seniority rights, notwithstanding the fact that the first train that ever operated over such branch lines where the white workers have full exercise of seniority rights, notwithstanding the fact that the first train that ever operated over such branch lines were manned by Negro brakemen.

UNFAIR TO NEGROES

"After you have investigated this matter, we ask that you recommend to congress that the paragraph in the Railway Labor Act, reading "a majority of a class or craft of railway workers shall have a right to make an agreement for the whole craft or class, get struck out upon the grounds of its unfairness to the minority of the class or craft, (the colored workers) and this paragraph be inserted in lieu, thereof with the following stipulations, (a) "the minority of a class or craft of railway workers shall have a right to representation of its own choosing and the railroads shall be required under this law to deal with the minority representation upon all questions upon all questions, relative to wages, working conditions and rules of employment, and there shall be no meetings or conferences held between the railroad managements and the majority representation for the purpose of changing any rates of pay, working conditions or rules of employments unless the minority representation is present with full participation.

(b) "the seniority rights of a railway worker shall not be restricted upon the grounds of race or color.

(c) "promotion shall not be denied any railway worker who can qualify for advancement from a lower to a higher rank in the service.'

(d) 'a railway worker having been advanced to a higher rank in the service, shall not have a right to combine his age attained in such higher rank in with that attained in the lower rank, for the purpose of defeating the seniority rights of a member of the lower rank, from which he was promoted, should he return to such lower rank for any cause whatever."

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Ten Con[illegible] Accused Of Racia[illegible] Discrimination

Roosevelt Committee Orders Firms With War Contracts To Give All An Even Break

WASHINGTON, April 12.—(AP)—Ten companies holding millions of dollars in war contracts were ordered by the President's committee on fair employment practice today to cease discriminating against workers because of race or religion.

In its first such action, the committee directed that the firms—all in the Chicago and Milwaukee area—"give written notice. . . advising that each plant will accept applicants for all classifications of employment without regard to race color, creed or national origin."

Since President Roosevelt established the committee by executive order last June, all war contracts have contained a pledge binding the contractor not to discriminate in hiring workers.

Committee officials said failure of the companies to comply with the order could result in government claims of contract violations and fines or, in severe cases not involving vital war materials, suspension of the contract.

Companies involved in the Chicago area are the Stewart-Warner Corporation, the Buick Aviation Plant at Melrose, Ill., the Bearse Manufacturing Company, the Simpson Manufacturing Company and the Studebaker branch factory. Those in the Milwaukee area are the Nordberg Manufacturing Company, A. O. Smith Corporation, Heil Company, Allis-Chalmers Corporation, and the Harnischfeger Corporation.

The committee said its findings were based on two days of public hearings held last January in Chicago. In announcing the action, the committee declared the companies "for the most part" denied discrimination, "but in each case, the committee found that the evidence supported the charges.

"The complaints filed against the several companies," the announcement added, "included allegations that they refused to employ either negroes or Jews, or both; that they had given restrictive orders to either public or private employment agencies, asking for only white or only Gentile workers; that they had advertised in newspapers for help and specified 'Gentile' or "Protestant' or 'white' or that they had refused to give workers of certain races and creeds opportunity for promotion in keeping with their qualifications."

The committee commended the Majestic Radio Corporation, Chicago, "for its prompt action in correcting discriminatory practice in its hiring." It said H. A. Gates, president, had testified he discharged two supervisory employes when he found charges of discriminatory practices on their part were valid.

APR 13 1942
APR 13 1942

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Beer in Bottles:

Brewing Firms Jimcro Negroes

Special

Who benefits from the $10,000,000 Negroes spend annually in Harlem for beer, wine and liquor?

This week we tell you about the beer you drink. There are approximately 14 brewers serving this market directly employing about 20 salesmen, 30 drivers and 25 helpers. Upon making a very close check, we find six Negro salesmen and one helper out of a total of 75 or more who earn their living directly from your purchases.

In the saloons you'll find just about three brands of beer in bottles. The reason for this we have found to be that certain owners would only buy the cheapest brand of draught beer, the people rebelled at drinking it and started buying bottled beer.

Anheusser Busch, which makes Budweiser beer, sells more bottled beer in Harlem than in any other section of the city. They have about three drivers regularly serving Harlem, none of whom are colored. They have two salesmen, one white and one colored (Brad Griffith). Pabst Brewing Co. (they make Pabst Beer) has one driver and one helper, white, two salesmen both Negroes, William Graham and Arthur Parris. Schlitz Brewing Co. has one salesman, white. Their distributor has, we believe, one Negro salesman but they employ white drivers and helpers on their trucks.

Ruppert has one Negro salesman, Cecil Cooke, out of about three, Schaefer has none, Rheingold none, Ballantine none. Pilser Brewing one Negro salesman, one helper on their truck. Hoffman has one Negro out of about three salesmen. No drivers or helpers at all.

We understand that you must be a union man to be a driver or helper on any of these trucks. We do not know if the unions are refusing membership to Negroes, but it seems to us that these jobs are rightfully ours. We should go after them.

The next time you buy beer, whether in a saloon, grocery or delicatessen, remember Pabst has two salesmen, Budweiser one, Ruppert one, Hoffman one, Pilser one. These are the only companies that hire Negro salesmen. They are worthy of your support because they are giving employment to a small extent to some of our boys.

Schaefer, Rheingold, Ballantine, Schlitz, Ebling, Peter Doelger and all others not named do not hire Negro salesmen, drivers or helpers. It's about time that you started spending your money where it will help a member of this community, so that those companies who are today hiring one Negro, may very shortly hire more. Budweiser could use two salesmen and three drivers, Pabst two salesmen and four drivers and helpers, Ruppert could use four drivers and helpers. Remember when spending your money for liquor, wine or beer, support Negro owners first. Then those owners who are cooperating with us by hiring Negro porters, bartenders and buying from Negro salesmen.

Next week we'll tell you about the wine situation in Harlem.

JUN 27 1942
JUN 27 1942
JUN 27 1942
JUN 27 1942

35c-1942 GENERAL

Negro Sea Captain Hunts In Vain for Berth on Ship

"PM Daily" New York, N.Y.

Best Offer He Can Get Is in Stewards Department

By AMOS LANDMAN

AUG 5 1942

PM Exclusive Hugh Mulzac is probably the only Negro in the country who holds a license from the Commerce Dept. which entitles him to be the master of a ship. He's held this license since 1920, but only once since then has he been able to get a job as skipper, and that was aboard a Negro-owned vessel.

Not only is he unable to obtain a position as master, but he can't even get a berth as mate. In fact, the only jobs open to Mulzac are in the stewards departments, which are usually manned by Negroes.

This is bad enough, but what irritates Mulzac even more is the type of person he sometimes finds holding positions he cannot have. For instance, on the last voyage he made, which took [illegible] to Suez, he says the third mate was openly pro-Nazi. Mulzac and the mate were standing on deck, watching a British hospital ship go by.

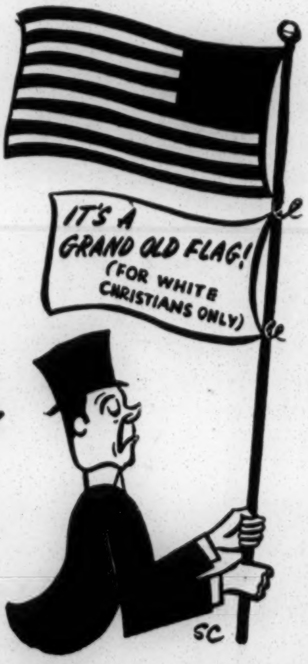
"They ought to take Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin," said the mate, "break their legs, put them aboard, and then bomb them down to the bottom of the sea."

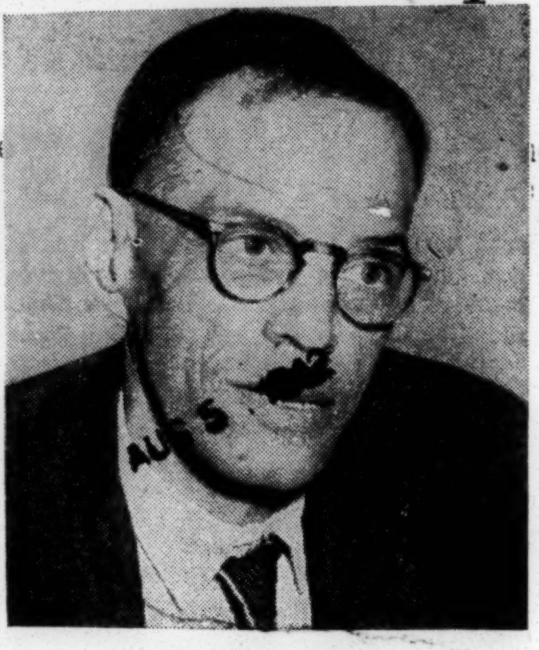
Mulzac replied: "Are you an American?"

"What are you sticking up for America for?" the mate asked. "They haven't done so much for you."

Mulzac was born 56 years ago in St. Vincent, British West Indies, and went to sea at the age of 20. He's been making his living at sea since.

He came to the U. S. A., became naturalized, obtained his second mate's license in 1918. He had little trouble getting placed as an officer during the last war.





Capt. Hugh Mulzac

But even though there seems to be a lack of officers—the Coast Guard and Maritime Service are training hundreds of them at Fort Trumbull, New London, Conn.—he can't get a thing today.

His application is on file at the Alcoa Line, the American-Hawaiian Line, the Maritime Commission, and Moore-McCormack Line, and the Isthmian Line, which control nearly all American shipping.

At the Isthmian Line, according to Mulzac, the port captain said he was too old.

"Too old!" the Negro replied. "Why that's the first time I've heard a man of 56 was too old. I've sailed under skippers who were 80."

The port captain then said that his application showed he hadn't sailed in the East very much. Mulzac pointed to his license, which said any ship could be "safely intrusted" to him upon "an ocean." Even so, he was not necessarily applying for a job as master, but would be satisfied to ship out as a mate.

"Well," replied the port captain, "I'll file your application, but it won't do you any good."

e to the aid of their country ,
to the aid of their country.

AUG 8 1942

War Worker Bares Own Sufferings In Capital's Jim Crow 'Minor Hell'

(This is a closeup of conditions affecting Negro war-workers in Washington today by one of them. Mrs. Muriel Preston's experiences are reported in her own words contained in a letter from the nation's capital, to this newspaper.—Editor's Note.)

(BY MURIEL R. PRESTON)

It is good seeing the series of articles on Jim Crow in Washington. I have always heard of the discrimination against Negroes here, but I never realized its enormity until coming here two weeks ago for a war appointment. And my experience is the experience of all colored girls pouring into the capital. We leave home in high hopes of working in good jobs, doing important work in Washington. We are proud to be Americans; to do our share in winning the war for international democracy. We reach Union Station and lo and behold—we can't get a taxi because our skin is brown.

Room Situation Bad

Of course the room situation is just as hectic for white as for colored, but naturally, for us the number of rooms available is limited. So we spend our first hours running around like mad trying to find ourselves shelter in a crowded and strange city. And the landlords are not human, knowing that we are strangers and urgently in need of rooms, they take vicious advantage of us, demanding much money in advance and giving little or no service in return.

With our baggage disposed of either in rooms or in the station we go to the district recruiting office at 7th and H Sts. There we sit, hundreds of us white and colored, for half a day, being fingerprinted, filling out forms, etc. Those of us appointed to the War Department are sent to 18th St. and Pennsylvania Ave. Here we are herded into small rooms on the third floor and fill out more forms and wait and wait until the oath of office is given.

Many of the white boys and girls both northern and southern are friendly with us. New friendships begin and we talk of the kind of jobs we will be sent to. In my group were 200 of us in all. About 150 names were called and the appointees went on their way. But look—the names called were only of white appointees. We Negroes look at each other in wonder.

Called "Minor Hell"

Then our names are called and the 20 remaining whites are mostly male typists and junior clerks. We are sent to the second floor pool.

Even in our family homes we have heard of this notirious "Minor Hell" and the rumors are correct. Ninety-five percent of the people crowded into the rooms are Negroes. "How long have you been here?" we ask them. "Three weeks," "one week," "four weeks," "six weeks,' they answer variously.

To the few whites we ask the same question, they answer, "two days," "one week," "two weeks." This last was the longest I heard for a white appointee.

We can see by our treatment upstairs and the short time the white appointees stay here that their being in the pool is mere accident. But it is no accident that all Negroes are sent to the pool. "The pool is Jim-Crow," we tell Mrs. Beiler, who is in charge.

"Oh, no," she answers, "Do you not see the white appointees here?" But she shrugs her shoulders. There is nothing she can do

Our new white friends have long gone to their assignment, doing valuable, important work.

Just Sitting Idly By

We colored girls just sit and sit day after day, week after week until special places are made for us, somewhere. We are hungry, most of us and live on one meal a day because we must eat out and restaurants in colored neighborhoods are high. Many of us already are in debt at home because of the expense of travel and living in Washington. There are low-priced restaurants and 5 and 10's in the pool neighborhood but our skins are brown, so we may not eat there.

"There is an acute shortage of stenographers," we read in the papers day after day.

"But we are stenographers, we say to each other. Good ones, too. Most of us have had years of business experience. We are swift and efficient. And this is the great democracy," the democratic capital ruled by southern reactionaries.

If we didn't live so far away we could go home, many of us say. But wait! They [illegible] calling names. A number of girls are given work assignments. Their faces light up and thoughts of home leave them

The next day we meet some of the girls.

"What are you doing?" we ask them.

"We are assembling and stapling sheets from the mimeograph machine," they answer, or "We are filing cards and papers."

Many Jobs Are Open

"But that is unskilled, junior clerks' work. You are a 130-word stenographer—or a 70-word typist. Why are you doing junior clerk work?"

And they shrug their shoulders, their hopeless eyes while we who are still in the pool wipe our tear-filled eyes and think of home. Thus we sit and sit—praying, hoping, waiting our heads aching, our pocket books empty, our stomachs empty. And as we talk, our words are bitter and we are no longer proud to be Americans. Are we wrong.

Keep on publishing your Jim Crow in Washington articles And may the march to Washington really occur and not be side tracked by false promises. Our future is in your hands. If we fail now, what will become of us when the war is over?

U. S. to Investigate Jim Crow Rules Governing Nation's Railroad Jobs

"PM Daily" New York, N.Y.

PM's Bureau

PM Exclusive WASHINGTON, Aug. 7. — President Roosevelt's Committee on Fair Employment Practices will open hearings soon on anti-Negro discrimination in the railroad industry, which, a Committee member said, was guilty of the "most flagrant" bias his investigations had yet disclosed.

35c

Attention will be focused on the "Big Four" railway unions:

¶ The Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen.

¶ The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

¶ The Order of Railway Conductors.

¶ The Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen.

However, the investigation will affect the status of every Negro employed in the industry. Some 6000 are in the operating branch—4000 brakemen and 2000 firemen. There are many times that number in the non-operating branch.

Joseph C. Waddy, Negro counsel for the Assn. of Colored Railway Trainmen and Locomotive Firemen, Inc., said the Committee hearings will deal principally with discrimination in the South, where most of the association's members are employed.

BUY
UNITED STATES
WAR
BONDS
AND
STAMPS

At present:

¶ Negroes may not become engineers and conductors.

¶ They are prevented from becoming firemen or helpers on locomotives equipped with mechanical stokers and the Interstate Commerce Commission in 1937 ordered that nearly all locomotives be so equipped.

¶ Negroes are barred by the Brotherhoods' constitutional provisions from becoming Brotherhood members, and the unions control most good jobs.

¶ The proportion of Negroes employed on a number of railroads is restricted by contracts between the Brotherhoods and the railroads.

¶ Some contracts also specifically bar promotion of Negroes.

¶ The rate of pay on at least one line is lower, by contract, for Negroes than for white men doing the same work. On that railroad, white firemen and brakemen get time and one-half for overtime, while Negroes do not.

The pay differential exists on the Louisiana and Arkansas Railroad, where the Negroes are represented by the Assn. of Colored Railway Trainmen and Locomotive Firemen and the white firemen by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen.

Here is what the contracts provide:

Class of Service	White Rate	Negro Rate	Differential
Firemen—Per Diem			
Passenger	$5.55	$3.36	$2.19
Through Freight	[illegible]79	$3.84	$1.95
Local & Way Freight	$6.19	$4.10	$2.09
Yard Service	$6.07	$4.36	$1.71
Work Train	$5.79	$3.49	$2.30
Brakemen—Per Diem			
Listman	$7.58	$5.46	$2.12
Helper	$7.06	$4.35	$2.71
Work Train	$6.07	$3.36	$2.71
Local Freight	$6.07	$3.70	$2.37
Through Freight	$5.64	$3.62	$2.02
Passenger Train	$5.49	$121	$60

(per month) (estimated)

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Harvy Wrote the President And the Union Got Him a Job

AUG 1 6 1942

By Eric Webber

President Roosevelt killed two birds with one stone.

He put another nail in Jim-Crow's coffin and tightened the noose around Hitler's neck. A union pitched in to help him do the job.

This story gets its take-off on a letter that Harvy Anderson, a young Negro boy wrote to the President. He was turned down on seven jobs in one day because of his color.

Discrimination is a Hitler trick. He uses the racial cry to suppress opposition to his killer rule. So there's no room in a democracy for that. And seeing that fascism and democracy are in death grips, we have to use every available means for crushing the enemy of all people, Hitler.

So along with the extension of Democracy, production comes into this story too.

FDR GETS A LETTER

When Roosevelt got a letter from Harvy Anderson asking for a job, the President turned it over to the War Manpower Commission. The Commission sent the letter to Local 1225, United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, CIO.

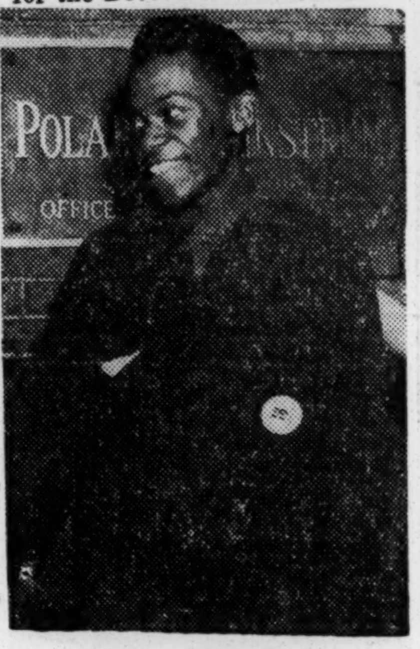
The Union got Anderson a job at Polarizing Instrument Company. And two more strong willing hands took up weapons on the production front.

But let's take the facts from the beginning. Here's the letter that Harvy Anderson wrote to the President:

Dear Mr. President:

I am a Negro boy, twenty-two years old. That is I will be twenty-two this Monday. For I was born in a small town, in the State of Delaware, July 20, 1920. I was raised and educated in New York State. I wasn't as fortunate as some young boys. For I had to quit high school and seek work.

I am now a married man. In September my wife is going to have a baby. I have been out of work for the last four months. I have but one pair of shoes and one pair pants to my name. I have tried very hard to get work, but in vain. I have an application for the Dover New Jersey arsenal, as a classified laborer. I haven't even, twenty five cents to take my application to the Notary Public. If my application was filed, it would take so long for me to be called, I would be out in the street. Even now I haven't ate for two days. I have been to the State Employment for work, that too was in vain. Even my church has tried to get me work, without success. Will you please help me to get a job? I have never been in jail or arrested in my life. The pastor of my church and other citizens will vouch for my character. With all sincerity I am proud to be an American, and will do my bit when I am called. May God bless you, and give you strength to guide America to victory.



HARVY ANDERSON

That letter was sent to the President on July 25. He didn't start working until last Monday. A lot of hunger can rumble thru a man's belly in three weeks. And a lot of things can happen in his life.

The child that Harvy talked about in his letter to the President was born . . . dead.

But Harvy isn't bitter. He says now that he's working, maybe his wife will be strong enough to carry the next one.

The kids at Polarizing are all for Harvy. When this reporter mentioned his name to a group of them they all spouted stories and impressions of him at the same time.

Jean Reefer, a lathe operator and chairman of the union's production council put her hand to her cheek and shook her head, "Can you imagine," she said, "he lives on 136th Street and for the first two days he worked here, he walked home because he didn't have carfare. From 14th Street to 136th Street. Whatta walk."

And Manny Sarfaty, shop chairman told how Harvy used his last two cents to mail the letter to Roosevelt.

There isn't discrimination at Polarizing anymore. There was a while back. That's Mrs. Fannie Clarke's cue. I'll let her tell the story: "I work a drill press. I didn't before I got this job though. In January, the Union sent me down to Polarizing for a job. But they turned me away because I was a Negro.

"Later I found out that the management went around to all the white girls and asked them if they'd mind working with Negroes."

Mrs. Clarke was cut short. A young lady near her broke in and said, **"Did we let them have it? We told them that production belongs to everybody. One of the girls said if she was good enough to make war stuff to fight Hitler, so were the Negro people, because this is everybody's war."**

UNION ON THE JOB

Polarizing employs over 220 workers. The percentage of Negroes is still small. But it's growing. The Union is doing a top job in the shop. The Union Production Council has already had one of its ideas adopted for speeding production. They have about another twenty-five ideas they hope to have accepted.

And Harvy Anderson has made a lot of friends at Polarizing; "It just shows you," he said, "when I wrote the President, he turned my letter over to the union. Unions sure are great things."

When this reporter asked him how he felt about working in a production plant, he said "I don't have to talk. These people are talking for me. I think everything they do."

Gov't Acts to End Ship Ban for Negro Captain

Daily Worker
N.Y., N.Y.

SEP 1 1 1942

By Eugene Gordon

"Immediate steps will be taken to correct the situation" which forces Hugh Mulzac, Negro marine captain, to man the cooks' galley instead of a ship carrying material to the anti-fascist front.

Commissioner McCauley, of the National Maritime Commission, made that assurance Tuesday to a delegation of trade unionists led by Charles Collins, business agent of the Hotel and Club Union, Local 6, AFL. Mr. McCauley was emphatic in his agreement with the delegation that competent men are too badly needed to allow one of Captain Mulzac's qualifications go begging.

The Negro marine officer has been declared qualified, as a result of the stiffest competitive examinations based on experience to sail a ship of any size on any ocean. For years he has had applications on file with the U. S. Maritime Commission, the Moore-McCormack Line, the Isthmain Line, the American-Hawaiian Line and the Alcoa Line.

Other members of the delegation, which arrived in Washington for a series of conferences early Tuesday morning, were: Tom Asterwood, vice president and organizer of Local 302, Cafeteria Union; James Alston, Meat Cutters Union; John Goodman, secretary-treasurer, Hotel Front Service, Local 144, AFL; Al Bland, business agent, International Fur and Leather Workers Union CIO; Theodore Jackson, president Dining Car Employes Union, Local 370, AFL; and Captain Hugh Mulzac, National Maritime Union, CIO

Mr. Collins said yesterday that he is awaiting further word from Mr. McCauley on definite action in the Mulzac case. He expects that action momentarily, he said.

The delegation conferred also with:

1. Alvin Roseman, acting director, War Manpower Commission and discussed the recent transfer there of the President's Fair Employment Practice Committee. Mr. Roseman told the delegation that Mr. McNutt, director, had requested more money, an increase in the FEPC staff, and establishment of regional offices. He promised that the FEPC powers will be strengthened and broadened, declaring that the President was personally interested in seeing that these things be done.

2. Lawrence Cramer, executive secretary of the FEPC. Mr. Cramer expressed an opinion similar to Mr Roseman's. He warned, however, that the FEPC must continue functioning as an independent agency, in the spirit of the President's Executive Order 8802, with full power to investigate and to redress grievances. The Manpower Commission should cooperate, not conflict, with that plan, he said.

3. Sylvester P. Meyers, acting chief, Civil Liberties Unit, Department of Justice. The delegation demanded a thorough review of the case involving three Negro soldiers in Louisiana charged with attacking a woman. Mr. Meyers assured the delegation that an appeal has been granted the men and that they have been given a full opportunity to prove their innocence.

The delegation then demanded the immediate arrest of Horace Wilkinson, Alabama Ku-Kluxer and organizer of the so-called White Supremacy League, and of Secretary Foster of the Alabama Chamber of Commerce, for "inciting to insurrection and giving aid and comfort to the enemy." To arrest these men was the "minimum" the FBI could do in these "obvious cases of sedition and incitement to violence," the delegation told Meyers.

4. Marvin McIntyre, secretary to the President. The delegation presented a petition to Mr. Meyers, calling for a Presidential proclamation on the Negro's stake in this anti-fascist war and requesting Mr. Roosevelt "to speak out boldly and uncompromisingly against the wave of lynch terror organized by anti-war elements."

35c-1942

GEORGIA

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
March 11, 1942

Georgia Stops Enrollment of CCC Negroes

Fourth Corps Area Units for Colored Will Be Disbanded.

Discontinuance until further notice of enrollment of Negroes in the Civilian Conservation Corps in Georgia was ordered yesterday by federal headquarters, Charles A. Coffin, CCC supervisor of the State Welfare Department, announced.

He said the ban on enrollment of Negroes was placed in effect because several Negro camps in the Fourth Corps Area would be disbanded in line with the CCC policy of discontinuing camps not actively engaged in war work.

Two Negro camps in Georgia, at Waynesville and Royston, will be discontinued, Coffin said, and the enrollees, about 300, probably will be transferred to Camp Stewart or to some other CCC camp engaged in war activities.

Coffin said in a statement the prohibition on Negro enrollments would "be welcomed by the farmers of the state because of the acute shortage of farm labor."

The state quota for white enrollees for March is 935. The enrollment will be conducted today and all those who enlist will be sent to California, Washington and Oregon to aid in protecting forest resources.

MAY 23 1942

FIRED FROM JOB FOR DELIVERING RACE NEWSPAPER

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Pittsburgh Courier

ATLANTA, Ga., May 21—That old, old story about "you can never tell what a Southern white man will do" was told again this week by William O. Johnson, driver of a delivery truck for Rich's, Inc., one of this city's leading department stores.

MAY 23 1942

Mr. Johnson

According to Johnson, a family man, he was fired from his job because he delivered the Pittsburgh Courier to a white woman's home while making deliveries for the company. The paper was intended for the colored maid, but the white woman got it by mistake.

A complaint was made to the department store and Johnson was called in. He was asked: "Do you believe everything you read in that paper?" Before the truck driver could answer, he was told of the dismissal. And, that was the end of Johnson's $16-a-week job without reference to another.

MAY 23 1942

Today, the former truck driver is employed in a radio station earning a higher salary from another white boss who happens to know why Johnson was fired from the department store. Johnson says: "This boss has no objection to my delivering a Negro newspaper or whether I believe what is in it or not."

35c-1942

ILLINOIS

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Tractor Co. Still Bars Negro Labor

JAN 31 1942

PEORIA, Ill. (ANP) — The announcement which the Caterpillar Tractor company made to its 14,500 employees this week that the force will be expanded so as to work 24 hours a day on defense contracts fell on unappreciative ears, as far as Negro workers are concerned.

This company, the largest employer of labor in Southern Illinois, has long made it a practice not to hire Negro workers. For many years it had none and then as a result of pressure added a few janitors.

The company has been very fortunate in securing government contracts. Its former president and present chairman, B. C. Heacock, is one of the high officials in war production under Knudsen in Washington.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

CHARGES LOCAL ILLINOIS EMPLOYMENT SERVICE WITH SANCTIONING VIOLATING DISCRIMINATION LAW

Asks National Director to Act Against State Office to Break Down Policy

FEB 28 1942

BLAMES ATTITUDE OF COMMUNITY

EAST ST. LOUIS, Ill.—(ANP)—In a letter addressed to the U. S. Employment Service director in Washington, the Citizens Defense and Urban League Organizing committee here last Wednesday called the director's attention to the Illinois State Employment service condoning the acts of discrimination in national defense jobs in violation of President Roosevelt's executive order and asked that the national office take immediate steps to break down the existing policy of the local office.

With the letter, the committee headed by William E. Officer, president; and George B. Nesbitt, secretary; inclosed copies of correspondence between the organization and the Illinois State Employment service, through a Mr. Wert, state director. The letters from the organizing committee brought Mr. Wert's attention to acts of discrimination practiced in East St. Louis, and asked that his office do something to eradicate such practices.

According, Mr. Wert addressed a reply to the committee, which did not refute the charges made, but admitted the truth and asked that the organization wait until "the attitude of the community changes."

Jointly, Mr. Officer and Nesbitt hold that the problem of defense training and placement is the issue that is paramount in their fight, that the employment service has a function which it must perform, that Negroes are entitled to the performance of that function, and that any attitude not in line with this function will not make progress.

"We do not believe that the East St. Louis office should be encouraged to yield to the 'existing employment practice in the community' where that practice is discriminatory and contrary to the best interests of the employment service and in facts against the national interest," said Mr. Officer.

In a letter addressed to Mr. Wert on Jan. 17, the committee raised the problems that no provisions were made for the training of adult Negroes for defense industry, despite the fact that East St. Louis is a great industrial area, with the highest concentrated defense production of any area in the middlewest. Only white are admitted to classes of the East St. Louis High school for defense training, while Negro applicants at the employment office are systematically kept from knowing what courses are available by the employment office worker in charge of defense training referrals. Too, although scores of Negro youth have received NYA training in power sewing machine operation, wood-working, machine shop practice, sheet metal and welding the East St. Louis office has not since July 1, 1941, placed a single one of these youth in related occupations in private industries.

The only jobs received by Negro applicants from the employment service were those domestic service and other menial tasks. The only problem on which some progress was apparently made is the local council of administrators, after many months of deley, voted to grant related training in NYA defense shops occupied by Negroes.

According to the committee officers, Mr. Werts asserted that "since pre-employment training is being offered by school to white workers in East St. Louis, the employment service took the position that to refuse job training to Negro workers enrolled in the NYA would be discriminatory," but had nothing to say about the fact that "pre-employment training is being offered by schools to white workers only."

Seeing that the employment in national defense of Negro workers is becoming more and more acute, the committee implored the national director, as the first step in taking over the state employment services, to bring action in East St. Louis in and effort to make openings for qualified Negro workers.

"We direct and entreat immediate attention to and action upon points raised in confidence that you want to make available to war industry and abilities and potentialities of all American workers," said the letter.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

TEN FIRMS TOLD TO END WORKER DISCRIMINATION

APR 13 1942

5 Chicago Companies Affected by Order.

[Chicago Tribune Press Service.]

Washington, D. C., April 12.—Charging discrimination against Jews and Negroes in the hiring of war workers, President Roosevelt's committee on fair employment practice tonight ordered the companies in the Chicago and Milwaukee areas to cease such practices immediately.

The findings and directions to the companies, which hold millions of dollars in war contracts, were based upon public hearings held in Chicago on Jan. 19 and 20. Dr. Malcolm S. MacLean, president of Hampton institute, is chairman of the committee which made the report.

The committee said that the companies involved in the Chicago area are: Stewart-Warner corporation; Buick aviation plant at Melrose, Ill., a unit of General Motors corporation; Bearse Manufacturing company; Simpson Manufacturing company, and the Studebaker branch factory.

One Company Commended.

In the Milwaukee area the companies affected are Nordberg Manufacturing company, A. O. Smith corporation, Heil company, Allis-Chalmers corporation, and Harnischfeger corporation.

APR 13 1942

One company, the Majestic Radio corporation of Chicago, was commended by the committee for its prompt action in correcting discriminatory practices in its hiring of employés. The committee said that H. A. Gates, president of the company, discharged two of his supervisors "after he had checked and found the charges of discrimination made by the committee to be valid. Mr. Gates took this action even before he appeared on the witness stand at the Chicago hearing."

"The complaints filed against the several companies," explained the committee, 'included allegations that they had refused to employ either Negroes or Jews, or both; that they had given restrictive orders to either public or private employment agencies, asking for only white or only gentile workers; that they had advertised in newspapers for help and specified 'gentile,' or 'Protestant,' or 'white,' or that they had refused to give workers of certain races and creeds opportunity for promotion in keeping with their qualifications.

Denied by Most Companies.

"The companies for the most part denied that they were discriminating, but in each case the committee found that the evidence supported the charges of discrimination. The findings and directions will give the committee a continuing jurisdiction over the employment practices of these industries, which hold contracts for war implements and materiel, as each concern has bee nasked to file reports with the committee, showing the extent to which steps have been taken to bring the company's employment policies and practices into line with the national policy."

APR 13 1942

The report recalled that the hearings included discussion of the Illinois law, approved July 21, 1941, prohibiting discrimination in defense industries.

"There have been no convictions under this law and apparently no appropriation has been made to enforce its provisions," said the report. "No information was furnished that any aggrieved person had even entered a suit under its provisions."

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

FIND CHICAGO UNIONS GUILTY OF RACE BIAS

President's Committee Demands Negroes Be Employed

WASHINGTON, June 14 (AP)—The President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices ruled today that two A.F.L. unions in Chicago had prevented Negroes from working on big defense projects and denounced the policy as "undemocratic and degrading" and contrary to orders of President Roosevelt.

In the first such action respecting unions, the committee sustained charges against Local 597, Steamfitters Protective Association, and Local 120, Chicago Journeymen Plumbers Union. It ordered the unions to "alter or construe" their policies by June 18 so that qualified Negro plumbers and steamfitters could be employed on a basis of equality with others.

The action was predicated on the complaints on the Cook County Plumbers Association and the Cook County Steamfitters Association, both Negro organizations. The former charged that Negro plumbers were unable to get jobs at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station and at the Francis Cabrini Defense Housing Project.

The unions, the Negro plumbers said, had an agreement with certain contractors on the two projects providing that only union members could be employed. The association said the union did not admit Negroes as members.

JUN 15 1942

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

This Mine Hasn't Hired Negroes in Thirteen Years

(Daily Worker Staff Correspondent)

By George Morris

DANVILLE, Ill., June 27.—"I'm next to the last colored man hired at Peabody and I've been there now going on 13 years."

This is how Lee Grace, Negro, pit committeeman of the Peabody Coal Co. United Mine Workers Local of Danville, summed up the Negro hiring situation in the district.

Grace who appears about 40 presents a powerful figure. He would very well suit the part of the legendary John Henry. He greets you with an ear-to-ear grin, and maintains a steady stream of good-natured story telling as long as you have time to spend with him. He is alert and thrusts his words in such direct-to-the-point manner that you soon see why the miners have re-elected him their grievance man repeatedly for 10 years.

I interviewed Grace at the little chicken shack he and his wife operate on a side. The mine wasn't working on that day.

There are only a score of Negroes among the 500 miners employed at Peabody. But last Monday when Grace was re-elected for his post, he received 352 votes, the top received by any candidate in the local elections contest.

The miners stand by him because he has always shown them that he is an able battler in behalf of whites as well as Negroes, foreign-born as well as native. His is the key post at the mine, for in no place of work are grievances as frequent or as numerous as at a mine.

25 YEARS IN MINES

His experience comes from 25 years of knocking around among mines in West Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and other states.

Grace humorously described how 12 years ago he blasted his way to a job at Peabody. This was due to his aggressiveness. For six weeks he made himself a "pest" at the superintendent's threshold until he was hired.

Tobe Ellington, chairman of the local's legislative committee, also a Negro, elected with 234 votes, explained why Grace has such prestige. Ellington has also been a miner for 25 years.

"You don't know what conditions we had here before Grace came. They were kiliing the men almost every day here. One day four were killed," he said. Safety issues occupy much of the attention of the mine grievance committee.

There are about 5,000 in the Negro community of Danville and Westville. Both Grace and Ellington estimated that the number of Negroes in the mines is about 100. They pointed out that the mine contract is such as gives the operator free reign to discriminate in hiring. The provision requiring preference to those with union cards, is only theoretically and [illegible] enforced, they testified. The consequences is that Negroes who have been out of the mines for a long time have given up hope of returning.

Grace and Tobey said the Negro people of the community are fully behind the war effort notwithstanding such treatment and despite the influence of the Republican Party, which is strong among them in this district. Both said that if the district of the union was autonomous, the union could do much to further the war effort.

JUN 29 1942

JUN 29 1942

JUN 29 1942

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Start Probe on Discrimination On Rail Roads

(Special to the Daily Worker)

CHICAGO, Aug. 10.—Seventy-five Negro railroad union leaders from 13 roads entering Chicago met in conference last Wednesday at the Quincy Club, 3806 So. Michigan Ave., called together the Chicago Railroad Manpower Committee, and laid further plans for preparing the case against Negro discrimination on the railroads for presentation to the President's Fair Employment Practices Committee.

Emmet N. Brooks, secretary of the Chicago Manpower Committee, placed before the conference a tentative draft of the brief the committee is preparing to submit to the forthcoming hearings.

The brief, which summarizes the discriminatory practices of the railroads against Negro employes, points out that Joseph B. Eastman, director of Defense Transportation has predicted a shortage of 300,000 men on the railroads by the end of 1942, and declares **"This shortage exists while able-bodied Negro men and women walk the streets pleading for the opportunity to lend their labor to help their country to victory. . . . In presenting to your committee the problem of the discriminatory practices of the railroad companies against Negro workers in violation of President Roosevelt's Executive Order 8802, we are guided by the uppermost task confronting our country today: the task of winning the war."**

TO CITE CASES

According to Secretary Brooks, the Manpower Committee is compiling hundreds of individual cases of discrimination on complaint blanks furnished by the FEPC to accompany its general brief. He emphasized that the supplying of these specific cases of discrimination is now the main task before the committee and urged all Negro railroad workers in the Chicago area, who have been the victims of such practices, to fill out at once the complaint blanks and turn them in to the offices of the Railroad Manpower Committee at 3856 South Parkway.

Among the speakers at the conference were E. E. Frazier, international vice president of the United Transport Service Employes of America, who brought the pledge of support of his organization, and Fred Smith who underlined the necessity of equal rights for Negroes at a time when the United States is fighting a war for democratic rights of all peoples all over the world. Attorney Ben Meyers, who participated in the recent Studebaker and Buick hearings of the President's Committee in Chicago, stressed the importance of "preparing the case." The Railroad Manpower Committee, he said, must have large numbers of individual complaint blanks filled out, to support its case at the coming hearings.

AUG 11 1942

35c-1942

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

RACE MEN TO BE DISMISSED FRIDAY 13TH

FEB 14 1942

'Lily White' Authority To Rule; Say Move Is Discriminatory

35c

NEW ORLEANS, La.—"Friday, the thirteenth" will be an unlucky day for the remaining three Negro tenant investigators who will be dismissed from the employ of the local housing authority as the last step in making the administration department of the New Orleans authority 'lilly-white." This move is deemed unwise and discriminatory in view of the fact that the units of the St. Bernard project are not completely leased. According to report there are more than 200 prospective Negro tenants to be investigated.

FEB 14 1942

Cite Employment As Pacifier

Prior to the opening of the first of the three completed projects public pressure was brought to bear upon the New Orleans housing authority for its subtle attempt to exclude Negroes from the general personnel. It is generally believed that their decision to use Negroes in the tenant selection department was a pacifier to the opposition.

Within the last several months tht Negro personnel of this department have been laid off gradually until only three remained, while more than 20 whites are retained as tenant selection investigators. Last week, the remaining three Negroes were notified that they would be 'indefinitely dismissed' on Friday, Feb. 13, 1942.

FEB 14 1942

Frequent requests have been made to the authority that a Negro be appointed in the public relations department to assist in the housing program development of the Negro projects. Several weeks ago a white woman was added to the public relations department, as the authority gave no consideration to the Negro group in the placement of qualified Negroes in its administrative set-up.

Negroes 2-3 of Program

Four of the six projects in New Orleans are designated for Negro occupancy and they play no part in the formulation of policy or the institution of development. This policy or the part of the New Orleans authority is conspicuously retarding the general development of an effective program for the tenants in the four Negro projects.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

LEADERS PLEAD FAIR PLAY IN U.S. WAR AIM

Federation Asks Places For Negroes On All Top Boards

35c

NEW ORLEANS.—Definite action in behalf of Negro labor in this state was a principal feature of the State Federation of Labor convention held here last week.

Prominent industrialists, state labor officials and leaders made a plea for dismissal of racial discrimination from the ranks of the organization and supported several resolutions presented to the body endorsing the inclusion of Negroes on all important committees and to place a Negro on the board of directors.

APR 18 1942

Andrew J. Higgins, president of the Higgins industries who recently was awarded a contract to construct several hundred ships for the government, made a timely plea for consideration of Negro labor in the present war effort.

Higgins, charging that the loss of Bataan was due to sabotage in ships, stated, "The Higgins industries in its vast scheduled development plans to tap the great reservoir of Negro labor in the South." Continuing he declared, "they're Americans. They were brought to this country as slaves against their will and it is our responsibility to give the Negro opportunity for education and work."

Prior to the convention Higgins appointed a Negro personnel representative for his plant to secure Negro applicants for training and work in the vast shipbuilding program he will soon start.

APR 18 1942

Resolutions

One resolution adopted by the convention assured that a Negro be appointed to the board of directors of the state federation. Several years ago the federation appointed Paul Hortman to the board of directors. The first such appointment made in this section of the country. When Hortman resigned from the presidency of the local longshoreman's union he also resigned his post.

APR 18 1942

Another resolution passed by the federation declared: "That this convention go on record against repeating the error of omitting colored delegates from responsible committees and programs from 1943 and henceforth and that the executive officers be instructed to include colored delegates on committees and to provide for colored representatives on all programs, and in all affairs; and that all laws, or parts of laws in conflict herewith, the same be hereby repealed."

The resolution was unanimously adopted and entered upon the official record of the state federation approved and duly signed.

LOUISIANA

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, PA.

FEPC Cracks Down On Dixie Shipyard

35c

Ordered to Cease Discriminating Against Negro Skilled Labor—Union Also Cited

Nov. 21, 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 19—The President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice on Tuesday directed the Delta Shipbuilding Corporation at New Orleans "to cease and desist its discrimination against skilled Negro labor and from its practice and policy of refusing to employ skilled Negro workers."

The committee also directed that Local No. 37 of the International Boilermakers, Shipbuilders, Welders and Helpers of America likewise "cease and desist from its discrimination against Negro workers qualified for skilled positions or classifications or employment in the Delta shipyards."

Hearings which brought about these directions were held in Birmingham, Ala., June 20, 1942.

HAD ONLY COMMON LABORERS

The formal complaint alleged that investigation by the committee's field representative disclosed that out of a total employment of 7,000 at the Delta shipyards, there were only a few hundred Negroes employed as common laborers or in menial capacities.

Louis B. Dapremont testified at the hearings that he is a carpenter of 27 years' experience and on June 4, 1942, was referred for work to Delta by Local 584, Shipbuilders, Carpenters and Joiners' Union.

He stated that he worked during the next two days but noticed no other colored mechanics employed. Mr. Dapremont disclosed to the union secretary and the shipyard employment office that he was a Negro and inquired whether he had been referred and hired under the impression that he was not a Negro.

NEGRO CARPENTER TOLD TO QUIT

Upon his disclosure, both the union secretary and an employment official at the shipyard advised him to quit his job, which he did.

Paul D. Dixon stated he had 22 years' experience in the shipbuilding trade and was hired by the Boilermakers' Union through Mr. James B. McCollum, international representative to organize a Negro auxiliary.

Mr. Dixon organized several thousand Negro mechanics and sought employment at Delta for himself and his men on March 10, and several subsequent occasions. He was freely given application forms, on one occasion receiving as high as 200.

These applications were filled out and filed with the company, but none of the applicants were hired although many white applicants were employed at or about the same time.

At one time, said Mr. Dixon, he was told at the employment office that the applications meant nothing: At another time the labor manager at Delta told him to see Mr. McCollum. When he did so, he was reportedly told by Mr. McCollum, "Keep your mind off Delta because Negroes are not going to work there . . . because every white man in there would walk out."

FIRED FOR HIS PAINS

In an effort to remedy conditions, Mr Dixon wrote letters to the mayor of New Orleans, the governor of Louisiana, and to the FEPC. For so doing, he related, he was discharged by Mr. McCollum from his position as organizer.

Clarence L. Laws, secretary of the New Orleans Urban League, testified that during the summer of 1941, over a month before the first keel was laid in Delta, he conferred with John H. Steinman, vice president of the American Shipbuilding Company of which Delta is a subsidiary and was informed that Negroes would be hired on all levels of employment.

300 APPLY; NONE HIRED

Following that conference, more than 300 applications were made by Negro welders, ship carpenters, painters, ship fitters and pipe fitters. None were hired.

R. B. Ackerman, vice president of the corporation, testified that "we are from Cleveland, Ohio, and are not prejudiced. The problem is new to us, but it is more or less controlled by conditions of the South."

He said further that the company entered into a preferential hiring agreement with the New Orleans Metal Trades Council in October of 1941, and under that agreement the company hires all of its workers through the unions affiliated therewith.

Further explaining the company's policy, Mr. Ackerman said that if the union under the hiring agreement referred skilled Negro workers to the company, the latter would hire them but that no such referrals had ever been made.

FEARED FRICTION, STRIKES

Robert Quinn, president of the New Orleans Metal Trades Council, said there are 23 union members of the council, but denied racial discrimination is the policy. He admitted, however, that Negro union members had an equal chance with the whites of being referred to or hired by the company. He asserted that he believed to hire Negroes in Delta would cause friction and strikes. His attention was called to Negro and white bricklayers in the same New Orleans union, who have worked side by side since 1922.

Mr. McCollum also denied the boilermakers discriminated, or that Negroes were organized into an auxiliary local with discriminatory intentions. He said that he had not sent any boilermakers to Delta because he had none to send. He denied "firing" Mr. Dixon because of complaints to the FEPC and others.

35c-1942

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

MARYLAND

Long Hours Short Pay for 160 Men

MAY 16 1942

MAY 16 1942

By OLLIE STEWART

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Because they have to put in 15 hours to complete an eight-hour day's work, because they have practically no chance for advancement, and because a vicious type of discrimination is practiced upon them daily, many of the men in the commissary department of the U.S. Naval Academy here have given their place of employment a new name.

They call the commissary department "Hell's Kitchen!"

Exclusive information gived the AFRO this week reveals that approximately 160 colored men —a majority of them under Civil Service—work in the Naval Academy's eating department under conditions unhesitatingly referred to as "terrible."

Chief Steward Is Boss

There is a chief steward, one worker told this reporter, who has absolutely the last word. If, for any reason, a worker seeks consideration from the paymaster or an officer called the captain, he has to get permission from the chief steward to even see the paymaster or captain.

White workers in the commissary department may advance to steward, chef cook or baker—the best paying jobs. Colored may not. Usually white workers begin as first class utility men (salary $100 a month) and go up from there.

6 1942

Seniority Means Little

And frequently when they begin work in this category, there are several colored men available, with years of service, who are drawing second and third class pay. Often, also, colored men with years of first class service behind them do not draw as much pay as the white beginners.

MAY 16 1942

To clearly understand the implications, here is the set-up as it was explained to the writer:

45 Waiters in Dining Room

The lowliest workers in the department are those who work in the midshipmen's mess (dining room) There are about 45 of them. They are not protected by Civil Service, draw a very low rate of pay, get one day off a week, 15 days annual leave—and no sick leave at all.

They, as well as most of the other colored workers, serve three meals a day—beginning work at 5:30 in the morning, and punching out at 8:15 in the evening This is approximately 15 hours they are not free, but they get paid for only 8 hours' time.

Next above these are utility men under Civil Service—with two days off a week, 26 days' annual leave and 15 days' sick leave. These men are divided into four classes.

MAY 16 1942

55 Earn $15 a Week

The fourth class men (55 of them) draw the princely sum of $62 a month, and in the group are many with eight or nine years' of service.

The third class men (10 of them) draw $75 a month, and most of them have put in ten to twelve years on the job.

The second class men (15 of them) draw $87.50, and have to their credit fifteen to twenty years of service.

The first class men (8 of them) draw $100 a month, and with one exception every one of them has worked at the academy fifteen years or more.

MAY 16 1942

White Workers Quickly Advance

White utility men, it was reported, do not stay utility men long. As soon as they are shown the ropes by colored workers, they either get promotions or get more pay.

In the top bracket are five stewards, all white; a half dozen bakers, all white; two white butchers and one colored butcher; one white chef cook and four colored assistants; five first cooks, white; and twenty-five cooks, colored.

No One May Eat

One complaint, which might be amusing were it not for the fact that the men draw such meager salaries, is that no worker may eat any of the food he handles. If a man eats a cracker, he is guilty of misappropriating a midshipman's food, and is liable for punishment.

Putting in 15 hours to make up 8 hours is one of the major complaints. The men do not work the full time, but their actual working time is so arranged that they cannot do anything else, or go very far from the kitchen or pantry.

Two Shifts Suggested

A solution, offered by one of the men, was that two shifts be employed, thereby cutting the long day in half. Then when a man was through work he could go home and rest. The suggestion has been turned down, however, because it was said there was not enough money on hand to hire two shifts.

The most serious complaint of all, though, is that promotion is denied colored men with proved ability; that white men doing the same work are paid more money than colored; and that the colored workers have no one to whom they may go for consideration.

MAY 16 1942

CHESTER WPA WORKER KILLED ON BALTO. PIKE

CHESTER, Pa.—Charles Allen, 25, of Leiper Drive, WPA worker, was almost instantly killed in an auto accident on the Baltimore Pike at Woodland on May 4.

Coast Guard Takes Over In Shipyard Discrimination

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

Prejudiced Whites Resent Employment Of Race Workers

BALTIMORE —(ANP)—Because white workers refused to work alongside Negro workers in the Bethlehem Fairfield shipyard, it was necessary for the dispatching of coast guard reserves here to maintain order, according to a representative of the International Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America, CIO.

Lucien Koch, port director of the union, said one of the causes of the fractional dispute was the "resentment of one group" of union men to the employment of Negroes in the yard.

"The union's position in the matter is clear, as all available forces of labor must be used at the present time," he added.

National union leaders are expected to come to Baltimore in the next few days to iron out this and whatever other difficulties have arisen.

It is said that five men were expelled from the union last week on charges among which the incitement to race hatred, directed particularly against Negroes and Jews.

Sam Fox, publicity director of the Maritime Workers' Union, No. 43, said the five men expelled from the union had friends at the yards who had been trying to provoke stoppages. He said the union had condemned them and asked the company to dismiss them from their jobs.

Nov. 29, 1942

J. M. Willis, vice president and general manager of the yard, said said Comdr. Carl H. Abel, captain of the port of Baltimore, had "thought it advisable" to send coast guardsmen to the yard because of "the possibility of unpleasant action taking place between different factions within the local unions."

Between 30,000 and 35,000 workers are employed at the yard, one of the first to build large liberty ships. The plant now has 16 modern shipways, with contracts to build 200 Liberty ships. There has been no labor-management trouble previously at the plant.

35c-1942

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Color Bar Is Dropped At Detroit Plant

APR 2 1 1942

Whites Told To Work with Race Men or Quit

DETROIT—(ANP)—The Packard Motor Car company, famous for years for its various models of beautiful cars whose slogan was "Ask The Man Who Owns One," dropped its age-old discrimination bar last week when two colored employes, James McCullers and Ernest Boyer, were transferred from another department in the plant and given jobs as metal polishers. This marks the first time in the history of the company that colored workers have been used in this department.

McCullers and Boyer had been denied the same jobs as the Packard plant last October after meeting all requirements. When they reported for work, white employes in this department threatened to stage a walk-out, which caused the men to be reassigned to their same jobs as laborers.

The company dropped the discrimination bar last week as the results of five months of beating around the bush and conferences beteween labor, management and the government.

When the two men reported to work last week in the metal and finishing department, white employes stopped work until they were told that they would have to work with these colored men or be dismissed. However, it is reported that this warning was not taken seriously until several had been fired.

MICHIGAN

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

DETROIT AUTOMOBILE PLANT DROPS COLOR BAR; WHITES TOLD TO WORK WITH NEGROES OR QUIT

APR 2 5 1942

Several Whites Are Fired Before Rest of Workers Realize That Employers Mean Business

By ISAAC JONES

DETROIT.—(ANP)—The Packard Motor Car company, famous for years for its various models of beautiful cars whose slogan was "Ask the Man Who Owns One," dropped its age-old discrimination bar last week when two colored employees, James McCullers and Ernest Boyer, were transferred from another department in the plant and given jobs as metal polishers. This marks the first time in the history of the company that colored workers have been used in this department.

APR 2 5 1942

McCullers and Boyer had been denied the same jobs at the Packard plant last October after meeting all requirements. When they reported for work, white employees in this department threatened to stage a walk-out, which caused the men to be reassigned to their same jobs as alborers.

The company dropped the discrimination-bar last week as the results of five months of beating around the bush and conferences between labor, management and the government.

When the two men reported to work last week in the metal and finishing department, white employees stopped work until they were told that they would have to work with these colored men or be dismissed. However, it is reported that this warning was not taken seriously until several had been fired.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

FORD PLANT GIVES NEGROES 'RUN AROUND'

MAY 2 4 1942

DETROIT, May 21—(ANP)—After spending many weary weeks and hours to learn how to read blue print and other necessities in order to get employment in the huge bomber plant of the Ford Motor company located at Willow Run, hundreds of colored women, are still on the waiting list while hundreds of white women are on the payroll drawing a handsome salary.

MAY 2 4 1942

Several weeks ago, a group of outstanding citizens headed by Sen. Charles Diggs called on Willis Ward, one of the Negro members of the Ford personnel department, in an attempt to find the reasons for such discrimination. Ward is alleged to have plainly told them that only single colored women would be considered for jobs at Willow Run regardless of their qualifications.

He also said that no policy had been worked out for the hiring of colored women, and gave the Sojourner Truth fight as the reason. Ward is alleged to have stated that there have been fights at the River Rouge plant between colored and whites over the Sojourner Truth controversy, and the Ford officials "feared trouble if they hired colored women."

While Willis Ward has denied some of these statements to members of the press, it is true that colored women are not being hired at the bomber plant.

In the meantime the union has taken the matter of hiring colored at the Ford bomber plant in hand. Richard T. Leonard, director of the Ford division, AUW-CIO, stated last week "The Ford division of the United Automobile Workers of America—CIO, is conducting negotiations with the Ford Motor company to provide for employment of colored women at Willow Run bomber plant."

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

NOTE ON PREJUDICE.

There was a spontaneous strike the other day in the Dodge truck plant in Detroit. The automobile workers' union sent 20 of its Negro members to the factory under the terms of the agreement worked out at the time the motor plants were shifted to war work. The Negroes, entitled to jobs under the seniority rules, were put to work. Several hundred white employés, members of the same union, protested and after lunch refused to return to their machines. Accordingly the entire factory, with more than 3,000 employés, was forced to close.

JUN 5 1942

The spokesman for the union says the strike was in violation of the union's by-laws as well as the principles of the American Constitution, and he properly insists that the Negroes be accepted. Evidently the leaders of the union recognize that it is they, and not the handful of Negroes, who are on the spot. If the officers of the union cannot keep faith in this matter, nothing remains of the boast that unions are the school of democracy, or of the other boast that union discipline is a guarantee of industrial peace.

There is a widespread but erroneous belief in this country that prejudice is to be found chiefly among the prosperous, the successful, the socially elect. The notion has been fostered by radical and revolutionary leaders who use it to win support from the victims of prejudice. In truth, some individuals in all classes are intolerant. Working men caused the trouble in the Dodge plant. A few weeks ago lower middle class people were responsible for the anti-Negro demonstrations at the Sojourner Truth housing project in the same community. Very seldom is the town banker, its leading lawyer, physician, or business man found among the ringleaders at a lynching. Many citizens, prominent for wealth and social position, fought the Ku Klux Klan, and mighty few such men were members of it. In this connection it is well to remember that Hitler's strength when he was rising to power was recruited largely from among the lower middle classes.

This is not to say that prejudice is found only among the less successful members of the community, but it is to say that no economic or social class can claim to be simon-pure in this particular. Those who wish to extirpate prejudice and persecution cannot confine their attentions to any one section of society.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Negroes Refused Jobs As Truckers

JUN 5 1942

DETROIT, Michigan—Ten young men who answered an advertisement in the papers on May 27, were refused employment by the New York Central R. R. Daniel Hunter, Shepherd Rice, Alfred Grant, Arthur Franklin, Anderson Evans, Joseph Brantley, Hosea McPherson, Robert Lucas Frank Johnson, and James Barber, filed a complaint with the NAACP. After standing around the freight docks all morning of the 27th, they were finally told that the company wasn't hiring Negroes. All white persons who answered the ad were hired.

JUN 5 1942

Daniel Hunter, who lodged the complaint, stated that in talking with the employment agent, he was informed that an agreement with the Union prevented the company from employing Negroes.

In correspondence to F. E. Williamson, President NYCRR System and C. L, LaValley, local Freight Agent, Gloster B. Current, executive secretary NAACP stated:

"During the critical war times that we are all experiencing, and motivated by the fact that there must be complete unity between all of us who are fighting for that democracy that we hold so dear, it does not seem consistent that your company would advertise for men to carry on the war effort and then erect barriers because of a man's race, creed or color.

"The Railroads of the United States need men to keep the arsenal of democracy producing and carrying those supplies so vital to the war effort. This is not a race war, but a war in which we all have an integral stake. The President has recognized this, as well as other enlightened Americans who realize that the thing for which we fight must exist here. Executive Order 8802 says that there cannot be discrimination in Defense Industries.

"We sincerely trust that you will investigate the enclosed case and make whatever adjustment necessary to provide employment for these American who applied in response to your advertisement, and were denied for reasons of color."

The complaint has been referred to the Fair Employment Practice Committee. The Case of Henry Swift, an aircraft riveter, who was refused employmnet by the Fisher Body Corporation, was also referred to the F. E. P. C. Swift had 246 hours of defense training.

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

FOUR WHITE MEN FIRED BY NAVY FOR REFUSING TO WORK WITH NEGROES

JUN 27 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Termed disloyal to the government by Secretary Knox of the Navy, four white workers who participated in a strike in the Hudson Motor Company's plant in Detroit, were ordered dismissed from the plant this week by the Navy. Two of the men were foremen.

The white men struck when eight Negro workers had been placed on machines which formerly had been operated by white workers. Several thousand workers were involved in the strike which was not sanctioned by the CIO auto workers union. Officials of the union have promised a thorough investigation of the background of the whites involved in the strike.

In a wire to plant officials, now operating as a war production plant, Secretary Knox said in part: "This plant is engaged in war work and is owned solely by the government and is designated as a government reservation. . . Refusing to work under such conditions warrants the assumption that the strikers are disloyal to the government. They may be dismissed and prevented from working on other war production jobs."

JUN 27 1942

R. J. Thomas, president of the union to which the workers belonged, denounced the action of the workers as a flagrant violation of the union's constitution and ordered the workers to return to their jobs or be expelled from their union.

Washington, D. C. Post
June 21, 1942

Democracy At Home

"Eight Negroes Hired; Thousands Strike." That headline should cause Goebbels' propaganda agents to shout with joy. It is material ready-made to sow suspicion and distrust of our liberal professions among our black, brown and yellow allies in the world-wide struggle against the foes of democracy.

As a matter of fact, the headlined Detroit strike caused by assigning eight Negroes to operate machines in the Hudson Naval Ordnance Arsenal was a direct outgrowth of the management's desire to carry out President Roosevelt's instructions to avoid racial discrimination. Thus the strike was a disloyal act. And, as Secretary of the Navy Knox said, such an act made the strikers subject to instant dismissal. Similar denunciations came from President Thomas of the United Automobile Workers. As a result the revolt of the misguided C. I. O. group was shortlived. Latest reports indicate that production in the plant is again normal.

The important fact to stress about this strike is that it testifies to the progress that has been made in overcoming discriminations against Negroes in industry. For it is their employment at tasks heretofore regarded as the monopoly of white workers that has caused all the trouble in this particular case. It is, to be sure, only one of many instances where friction has developed over placement of Negroes in war jobs. But such conflicts are the inevitable accompaniments of efforts to overcome obstacles erected by custom and confirmed by prejudice. And they are incidental. If we look behind the headline we shall discover much to hearten us and confirm our confidence in the steady advance of democratic ideals at home while we fight for their preservation abroad.

Of course, it is not incumbent upon believers in democratic institutions and governmental forms to treat all their fellow men alike. Everyone has likes and dislikes, based on racial, religious or purely personal grounds. Nobody is compelled to work alongside another man of a different color against his will. But that very liberty to choose one's associates, to work or to remain idle, is assured because we live under a Government that tries to protect the rights of the individual and to insure him equality of status under the law. In these troublous times let us all remember that.

35 c - 1942

Michigan

No Negro Women Hired by Ford

Daily Worker
N.Y., N.Y.

SEP 1 4 1942

THE Michigan Chronicle, Detroit Negro newspaper, states in its Aug. 29 issue that the Ford Motor Company has in recent months hired 3,500 women to take the place of men drafted into the armed forces—but no Negro women are among them.

The paper's editorial of that date, denouncing the color bar to jobs, and making a special plea for the Negro woman, follows in part:

If the Negro man is the "forgotten man" of this generation, the status of the Negro woman in American life entitles her to the same classification among the nation's women. She is the "forgotten woman."

The peculiar status of the female in our society is today undergoing changes which are nothing short of revolutionary. The traditional concept of a "woman's place" is being thrown overboard, and she is doing everything that heretofore had been regarded as the domain of "men only," including wearing his pants. . . .

SEP 1 4 1942

In this sex revolution, however, Negro women, like their male counterparts, are constantly getting the short end of the stick. Industry has opened its doors to women because of demands of this total, mechanized war. Negro women, however, have to fight to take their places along with their pale sisters. Thus, given the generally inferior status of women, one must add the color bar as the crowning insult to a very great injury. The case for our women is far more serious than for our men. They must battle the myths that have been built upon sex as well as those of color.

Our leadership has begun to recognize that the crusade of equality includes our women, and when we campaign for our democratic opportunities in industry and even in the armed forces, we are also campaigning for the whole race regardless of sex.

This Second World War has taught us that in order to defeat modern enemies we must utilize all of our resources. It has taught that America cannot win by discriminating against certain races in the total effort, and now we are learning that we can't afford to discriminate against either sex.

SEP 1 4 1942

Last week, a showdown was sought with the Ford Motor Company for discriminating against Negroes in the hiring of women for the Willow Run bomber plant. According to the union officials, Negro women are gaining footholds in a number of other plants and the employers have not regretted their liberal policy.

35c-1942

MINNESOTA

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Rehire Women Fired When They Objected To Discrimination

MAR 20 1942

MAR 20 1942

MAR 20 1942

Minneapolis Welfare Board Deals Blow to Jim-Crowism; Hospital Employes Win Fight for Justice

Minn

MINNEAPOLIS. — (ANP) — The Minneapolis Board of Public Welfare dealt a blow to jim-crowism and race segregation here last Friday when the board ordered the reinstatement of Mrs. Sybil Bell, Mrs. Dorothy Moore, and Mrs. Nellie Rice to Lymnanhurst hospital, from which they were discharged February 10 for refusing to accept jim crow accommodations in a public rest room.

Their superior officer, Mrs. Hazel Mitchell, told the women that Dr. E. E. Harrington, health commissioner, had ordered that they move their clothing from a locker and rest room which they had been using along with other women for months. The matter was reported to the Minneapolis Urban league, to be later referred to the local branch of the N. A. A. C. P.

MAR 20 1942

A delegation from the N. A. A. C. P., appeared before the welfare board in its regular meeting to protest against the injustice accorded the trree women. Mrs. Bell, after telling her story, was questioned by Mayor Marvin Kline for further details. C. W. Washington of the Urban league explained that the three women were paid for their work at the hospital by the WPA.

35c

After Mrs. Bell's testimony, Mayor Kline suggested that the board order the reinstatement of the women pending an investigation and filing of affidavits. The resulting motion included the provision that the women would be returned under the same conditions which they had worked prior to the jim crow edict.

MAR 20 1942

According to the three on reporting back to work they found everything working in perfect harmony. Another woman, Mrs. Emily Vaughn, who accepted the jim crow accommodations and was not discharged, was ordered to move her clothes back to the regular rest and locker room when the other three returned to work.

35c-1942
Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

MISSISSIPPI

White Foreman Resents Reply

GULFPORT, Miss.—(ANP)—Suffering from a spinal injury which has paralyzed him from the waist down, 19-year-old Edgar Fordham of New Orleans declared that working conditions for Negroes in the defense plants here are "worse than slavery," as he alluded to the brutal beating he received at the hands of a white foreman of the J. E. Milan Construction company.

"I'm a white man, and you say 'no, sir,' and 'yes, sir,' to me," was what the foreman told the youth after he'd knocked him down and stomped him in the back with both feet, Fordham stated,

The immediate trouble started when William Morrel, white foreman walked up to the youth and asked him a question, to which the boy answered "yes." Burnt by the reply, he told the workers.

"I'm a white man, and you say no, sir, and yes, sir to me."

He then told Fordham to get his time. When the two got to the office instead of giving the youth a pay slip he whirled and struck him, knocking the boy down. Then he jumped on his back with both feet and kicked him in the stomach when he attempted to rise, the youth said.

At the beshest of an officer, the victim was carried to the local hospital where he was treated by a Dr. Lopez, reportedly a company physician. When Mrs. Christine Brown of New Orleans came for her brother the doctor refused to give her a discharge slip, declaring that nothing was wrong with the boy despite the fact that a later medical examination revealed his condition to be serious.

Fordham stated that he came to fill the position of a pipe- layer, but was not allowed to work in this capacity because "pay was thought too much for Negroes."

"I was to get 75 cent per hour. but when I got on the job I found that the pay was only 45 cent per hour, he declared. "When I refused to work for this amount my employer agreed to give me 60 cents per hour."

Fordham expressed the belief that his refusal to work for the low pay marked him for the foreman's wrath.

AUG 16 1942

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

Admits Barring Race

JAN 9 - 1942

35c

The suit of colored workers to force down impediments which have kept members of the race from getting employment on skilled jobs at the $3,500,000 Carr Square Village low cost housing project advanced a step further Thursday. A response ordered by a State Circuit Court in St. Louis, in answer to the injjunction, was filed in behalf of the defendants. It contained frank admission of discrimination. The suit is the first of its kind.

Would Halt Practice

The Department of Justice announced the filing of the response to the court's order to show cause why an injunction should not be issued to restrain the St. Louis Housing Authority, its contractors and subcontractors, from discriminating against Negro skilled workers in employing labor on the project.

JAN 9 - 1942

U. S. Atty. Harry C. Blanton filed the response in behalf of the U. S. Housing Authority. It is in the form of an affidavit by USHA Administrator Nahtan Straus. The order to show cause was issued Nov. 15, 1941. following a petition for an injunction field Nov. 10 by the NAACP in behalf of E. S. Matthews B. A. Steele, Page Dickerson, Rudolph Craig, Wyatt Curtis, Marvin Claybrook, C. J. Johnson and Charles Holton, plaintiffs.

JAN 9 - 1942

Cites Case

In the complaint filed with the court, the plaintiffs charge that although over three percent of the skilled construction workers in the St. Louis area are Negroes, no Negro workers has been employed on the Carr Square Village Project, which is itself intended for Negro tenants. The petition for an injunction contends that this failure to employ Negro workers is in violation of the contracts between the USHA and the St. Louis Housing Authority and between the local housing authority and the contractors, both of which prohibit discrimination because of race in the employment of construction workers.

In the response filed. Administrator Straus admits that discrimination because of race does exist in the employment of labor on the Carr Square Village project and announces the determination of USHA to correct the situation.

The law firm of McLemore and Witherspoon and Attorneys Henry Epsy and Roy Lowe, representing the plaintiffs, issued the following statement: "We feel that the affidavit of Mr. Straus states the facts. We believe that satisfactory results will enuse. The purpose of the law suit, the first of its kind in the country, was not a sensational trial, but to obtain justice for Negro worker in St. Louis and elsewhere in the country.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

CLUB FIRES JAPS; HIRES RACE STAFF

JAN 17 1942

35c

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 15—The war, which has caused so much concern in many quarters, has proven another benefactor to the members of the racial group in that, during the past week, the most fashionable and aristocratic club in the Greater St. Louis Area has replaced its Japanese employes with race workers.

Notice to this effect was sent to members of the club by the board of governors in a special delivery letter which said in part: "Due to the war, the board of governors have felt it advisable to terminate the service of all the club employes of Japanese ertraction." It further advises that the FBI has been told that all of the men have a clear record and are free to seek employment.

Succeeding the Japanese waiters, who also handled decorations for dinners and parties for the city's elite is a group of men from the cream of the crop of St. Louis waiters. James P. Bester is head waiter while Ford Clark is captain in charge. Other staff regulars are George Officer, Homer Jamison, Alexander Norman and J. Stevens.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

PLAN PROGRAM FOR TRAINING OF WORKERS

JUN 27 1942

Company Claims Lack Of Persons Qualified In Needed Skills

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—(Special)—Following an organized protest march on the small arms munitions plant here by more than 300 Negro men and women on June 20, plans for the establishment of an all-Negro unit of production workers at the plant were announced this week by a spokesman for the United States Cartridge company, operator of the plant.

35c

The march was organized by the St. Louis "March on Washington" committee in protest of the firing of 150 Negro janitors from the plant.

It is reported that a program for training Negro workers in the various skills required in the plant will be instituted. The reason for the training program was given as being that the company has been able to find only 35 qualified Negro workers for a shift that normally employs 180 workers.

JUN 27 1942

During the protest company officials feared an outbreak of trouble, and posted approximately 50 uniformed and plain-clothes policemen at strategic points about the plant which is enclosed by a 10-foot wire fence.

35c

During the parade passing white workers were heard to lend cheer to the protestors, saying, "Fight it out, we are with you." Meanwhile the operation of the plant, which hires more than 20,500 skilled mechanics, was interrupted because large numbers of workers left their posts to view with evident mixed emotion the slowly moving paraders.

JUN 27 1942

Only one Negro employe was seen by the Defender reporter at work about the plant. He was polishing brass on the front door of the main employment office.

Curious passers-by stopped to read such signs as these borne by the silent marchers: "Roosevelt says, 'No discrimination,' Small Arms replies, 'Says you.'" "Twenty thousand five hundred employes but not one Negro in production." "We fight together why not work together." "We want work not charity." "We must work to live." "Negro dollars for bullets." "So this is the Democracy for which we fight."

From Washington to investigate conditions at Small Arms Plant came Clarence M. Mitchell, assistant director, Negro division, War Production Board, who conferred with company officials Friday afternoon, June 19. Milton P. Webster of Chicago, a member of the Fair Employment Practices committee, sat in on the conference also. Results of their efforts have not as yet been made public.

In a printed leaflet widely distributed about the city the St. Louis "March on Washington" committee pointedly condemned and denounced the Small Arms Plant for violation of President Roosevelt's executive order against discrimination by plants doing defense work: refusal to place Negroes in production work; bringing in white workers for jobs that rightfully belong to Negroes; for its humiliating and degrading jim crow policy inside the plant, and especially for the firing of 150 Negro porters.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

100 Women

New Job Opportunity Offered by Coronet Manufacturing Firm

Nov. 27, 1942

Norman Brown Is Foreman of Night Shift Manned Entirely by Colored Power Sewing Machine Operators

Nov. 27, 1942

Nov. 27, 1942.

A new industrial opportunity for Negro women is offered at the Coronet Manufacturing company, 1000 Broadway, where already 100 women have secured employment as power sewing machine operators.

The Coronet company has set an example which will may be followed by other firms in the garment industry. The employment of Negro women operators began several months ago as an experiment. The experiment now is a proven success, the workers having proved satisfactory producers.

The Negro machine operators make up the entire night shift at the Coronet factory located on the fifth floor of the building on the southwest corner of 10th and Broadway.

The foreman of the night shift is a young Negro, Norman Brown, who has worked at Coronet for 5 years and who was largely responsible for employment of Negro women operators.

Brown's record as foreman of Coronet's pressing department was so satisfactory that the management of Coronet were eager to give other qualified Negroes a chance.

Brown, who lives at 1513 E. 22nd St.‘, is in full charge of the night shift which works from 4 p. m. to 11 p. m. daily and from 8 to 12 noon on Saturdays.

The Coronet factory specializes in the production of robes, both for civilian and army consumption. It has several government contracts.

The Coronet company is believed to be the only industry of its kind with an entire Negro night shift supervised by a Negro foreman.

The opportunity for employment offered for Negro women is an incentive for other young women to take training in power machine sewing. Brown says that Coronet can always use a capable operator. He suggested the NYA production center at 2000 Quindaro Blvd., in Kansas City, Kas, as a good place for young women between 17 and 24 to take training. There are other training classes available for older women, he said, and he urged those who like sewing to take advantage of it.

There is no age limit for women employed by Coronet, he said. "So long as they can produce, we do not care about their age," he said.

The operators work on a piecetime basis with a minimum of 40 cents and hour. An individual's ability governs the wage.

In addition to Brown and the 100 women, Coronet also employs two Negro men as machinists. They keep the machines on the production line running smoothly and efficiently.

Norman Brown is a young man of unusual ability. He was born in McGhee, Ark. He studied tailoring at the Arkansas State college at Pine Bluff after graduating from Shorter college in Little Rock.

Coming to Kansas City in 1937, Brown began work as a presser at the Long-Hall Dry Cleaning company. From there he went to Coronet. He had been at the garment factory only a short time before the Coronet management recognized his ability and placed him in charge of the pressing department where the newly made garments are pressed, folded and packed. He held this job until he was made foreman of the night shift.

Nov. 27, 1942

Before the war, there was no night shift at Coronet, but with the increase of work due to government orders, it was necessary to add the shift.

It is believed that Brown's success led Coronet to employ Negro women for the night shift.

The Negro workers and white workers at the Coronet factory are paid by the same wage scale. A few white operators work on Brown's night shift.

Brown has made himself indispensable to his employers in many ways. In addition to giving efficient service he has used his creative genius to devise a pocket crimping machine which is used regularly in the production of garments. A machine to do the same work would cost several thousand dollars. Brown designed and had it built himself at much less cost.

Brown is a member of Allen Chapel A. M. E. church. He is a member of the Heart of America golf club and likes to fish.

He has a sister, Mrs. Dorothy L. Jones who teaches music in the school system of McGhee and a brother, Pvt. Frank Brown Jr., now at Camp Lockett, Cal. The young foreman's father, Frank Brown, is retired from a paper mill company in McGhee.

Brown lives at 1513 E. 22nd St., with his wife, Mrs. Elnora Brown, who also formerly lived in McGhee.

35c-1942

NEW JERSEY

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

LAUNCH MOVE FOR RECALLING OF N. J. MAYOR

Atlantic City Group Takes Action; Charges Bias In Civil Service

MAY 2 - 1942

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.—Impetus was given the move to recall Mayor Thomas Taggart, Jr., of Atlantic City when the Standpatters Republican organization, resort's oldest and largest political club, endorsed the recall movement Wednesday.

MAY 2 - 1942

Recording the largest attendance in the past five years, and with Deputy Sheriff Fred Johnson, Jr., presiding, the move went over with an overwhelming majority, after spirited addresses by Mrs. Sarah S. Washington, Dr. H. David Holmes, R. Landon Flipping, and William Boggs.

Resentment over the incumbent mayor's use of the names and pictures of Miss Marian Anderson, Prof. George Washington Carver and Paul Robeson, as a smoke screen to hide deficiences and obstructionist tactics where advancement and comforts of North side citizens are at stake, has swelled the numbers seeking the mayor's recall.

MAY 2 - 1942

Much bitterness was engendered by his failure to include sufficient funds in the fire department budget for 1942 until the names of Thomas Gill, Cornelius Dade and Joseph Edwards had been wiped from the eligible list, three appointees scheduled to bring Engine Company No. 9 and Truck Company No. 6 up to their normal complement. Last week nine men were appointed to the fire department, all white.

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

NJ Arsenal Discharges Thousand Negro Women

OCT 24 1942

Nearly 1,000 Negro women have been dropped from the payrolls of the Government arsenal, Raritan, at Metuchen, N. J., since October 2, when the hike in wages reached a new height of $22 to $32 per week, according to reports reaching PV's office. It is believed by women who reported the matter that the purpose of the layoff is to replace them with white workers, who may benefit by the raise in wages.

According to Mayme Whittaker, 422 St. Nicholas avenue, and Frances Obey, 19 W. 126 street, when the last pay check was given them, they were not given birth certificates, and are unable to get defense jobs in spite of their honorable discharge from the arsenal.

These women further claim that one of the women workers has secured names of nearly 100 women workers who have been dropped from the payroll in the past ten days. Additional information is being accumulated thru other sources. Meanwhile, Vivian R. Ayles and Gladys M. Aaron, along with 25 other former employes, are seeking *PV's* assistance in staging an investigation of the whole matter.

OCT 24 1942

One-sided Contract

The women claim they were hired under a six-months' contract, with a penalty attached should they break it. However, after three weeks they were discharged without notice, due to "lack of work," at the very time the Government is seeking to draft industry in the all-out war effort. They further declare they know of no white worker who has been discharged.

Another angle looms as the former employes outline facts on segregation and discrimination of workers. At the time, they made no complaints because we "wanted to do our part to help in the war effort." But white women, hired in the same group, were separated from them and given different assignment slips. Although some of the Negro women were capable of working on other jobs in the arsenal, they were all placed in the same category—machine work, or labor while whites were given other jobs. The foreman threatened them with fines and suspension should they fail to turn out exorbitant amounts of work.

OCT 24 1942

Refused Other Jobs

The itemized statement, coming from the 27 former employes at the arsenal, says that reasons for claims of unfair treatment are that some of the women had refused other jobs for work at Raritan because they believed the contract valid. Other than that, being discharged without notice proved very inconvenient. They already had purchased commutation tickets for the whole week from New York to New Jersey at $5 each, which they did not get to use.

The women are demanding to know why they were hired under the subterfuged condition. They say they had the right to know what the conditions of the job were when they were hired. Why were the white women, who were sworn in with them, given jobs that did not terminate on October 2—the end of the three-week period. With an honorable discharge, the women flatly contend they should be given other jobs in war industry at least equivalent with those at Raritan.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, PA.

Hastie Gets Complaints On Jim-Crow

Dec 5, 1942

Dec 5 1942

NEWARK, N.J., Dec. 3—William Hastie, Administrative Assistant to Secretary Stimson, was in receipt of a request for a probe into charges that Negro employees of the War Department headquarters in this city have been grouped into segregated units. The request was made by the State Welfare Commission on the Condition of Urban Colored Population.

Making the specific charge that segregation exists in the Office of Dependency Benefits recently transferred to the Jersey area, the Commission statement said:

AWAITS REPLY FROM HASTIE

"The grouping of Negroes in units, if it existed regardless of the fact that they worked in the same room, would be considered segregation by the commission and by the public in general."

Commenting on the protest, Colonel Harold N. Gilbert, director of the Office in question, said:

"This office complies with the established policy of the War Department. It does not discriminate against its employees because of race, creed or national origin."

Gilbert said that his office would take no action until some word had been heard from Hastie's office.

Source: Sept. 19, 1942
Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

NJ FIRMS LOWERING BARS
TO MEET LABOR SHORTAGE

Sept. 18, 1942

NEWARK--The Forstmann and Botany industries, two of the oldest woolen mills in New Jersey, have started employing, for the first time, Negroes on a large scale in skilled and semi-skilled positions, according to the executive secretary of the NJ welfare Commission on the Condition of the Colored Urban Population. Glenn Gardiner, vice president of Forstmann Woolen Mills and a member of the War Production Board, division of training within industry, commented favorably upon admitting Negroes into his plants:

"We have done everything possible to make their induction pleasant and harmonious. We are more than glad to say that there has been no indication of any lack of cordiality whatsoever upon the part of our white employes."

35c

The Negro labor force has been greatly increased as a result of the efforts of the commission in Wright Aeronautical Corporation, Paterson; Eclipse Aviation Bendix; Western Electric, Clifton and Kearny; Breeze Corporation, Otis Elevator American Transformer Inc., Titeflex Metal Hose Co., and National Union Radio Corporation, all of Newark.

The permanent welfare commission was created by the legislature of NJ to examine, investigate and recommend measures for the purpose of improving the economic, cultural, health and living conditions of the urban Negro population of the state in the fields of civilian defense, employment, housing, education, health, delinquency and crime and civil rights.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

NEGROES NOT EMPLOYED BY COLGATE CO.

FEB 28 1942

Executive Admits 100-Year Concern Never Hired Race Workers

NEW YORK — A shocking policy of racial discrimination in employment followed by Colgate and company throughout its hundred years' history. was revealed this week by Atty. James Bright and Fred W. Martin, prominent Jersey City citizens, during a luncheon engagement here at the Hotel Theresa.

Bright and Martin were in New York with the view of presenting to the President's Fair Employment committee, now sitting here, the results of a conference held with the Colgate plant superintendent and personnel manager early this week in Jersey City.

Members of the Jersey City Fair Employment committee which has collaborated with the local National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Junior League, Bright and Martin revealed that Colgate's Plant Superintendent McMillan and Personnel Manager McNeal admitted that the company had hired no Negroes, to their knowledge in its more than a hundred years of business and that it has none in its employ now.

During the three-hour conference with Colgate officials at 105 Hudson street, Jersey City, the committee uncovered one of the strangest and most shameful records of race-bias yet to be brought to light.

Committee members thought the record strange and shameful, it was said, if for no other reason than the tremendous number of Negro consumers of Colgate products throughout the nation.

Rev. E. A. Hardge, a member of the committee and president of the Jersey City branch of the N. A. A. C. P., after asking whether Colgate had ever hired or was now hiring Negro workers and receiving a negative answer, inquired, "Does the Colgate company have any defense contracts?"

On being told by McNeal that the company did have such contracts, Rev. Hardge asked, "Do you know you are violating the President's executive order against discrimination by companies handling defense contracts?"

FEB 28 1942

McNeal then said he did not know the company was violating the President's anti-bias order; and added that he did not consider the company's policy discriminatory, explaining that the company had always followed a policy of giving employment to the sons and daughters of old employees, so that "our labor supply (sic) resembles a huge family."

McNeal continued by saying, "But we do accept applications from colored workers."

(An attempt to find among Jersey City's numerous colored population, from the oldest native born to the youngest, any knowledge of a colored person having worked at Colgate, within the memory of man, supported Mr. McNeal's statement that Colgate employees have constituted a strict and exclusive white family affair. Not a single colored resident of this city had ever heard of a colored worker at this company, which bosts a $50,000,000 working capital and admits there is a huge number of Negro consumers of its products.)

Plant Superintendent McMillan and McNeal both assured the committee that they had no personal prejudice against Negroes, McNeal offering in evidence that he once had sat at a table on a dining-car with a colored lady.

The committee was told that Colgate would furnish them with a statement on its policy within a few days. It is demanding the immediate employment of fifty to a hundred colored workers.

FEB 28 1942

The Jersey City committee sought the conference with Colgate officials after Negro girls were repeatedly refused consideration for employment. The case, Attorney Bright and Mr. Martin declared, is by no means closed. Their committee is at present awaiting the Colgate statement on policy, which they expect within a very few days.

New York Age
New York, N. Y

Governor's Committee Reports Discrimination Against Negroes

MAR

Efforts to end job discrimination against Negroes, Jews and Italians have made less progress in Brooklyn during the past year than in any other center of defense industry in New York State, declared Robert Washburn, executive secretary of the Governor's Committee on Discrimination in Employment, Thursday at a luncheon meeting of the family service committee of the Brookly Bureau of Charities at 285 Schermerhorn street. He made an exception of the Navy Yard, whose employment practice was said to be fair.

MAR 21 1942

"We shall have to conquer this problem of job discrimination and conquer it in an extraordiarily short time, if we are going to save the country," warned Mr. Washburn. "It cannot be solved by legislation but by public opinion operating on employers and labor alike. There must be a general change of heart, a conversion, among people everywhere."

Job discrimination will not only play into Hitler's policy of splitting the country internally but will also deprive industry of valuable man-power in what "promises to be a long, tough war," Mr. Washburn said.

"Hitler operates two ways," he said. He tries to make the minority groups discontented, and he also operates to see that they do not get a square deal. In this country he is able to twist the knife between American theory and American practice. We Americans adopted the Fourteenth Amendment but we have never lived up to it.

MAR 21 1942

Referring to the Negro, Mr Washburn said that there was probably no skilled job on any level of responsibility that some Negro was not now filling, but that this had not resulted in letting down the barriers to Negroes. "With any group against whom prejudice is working, we are apt to say that the well qualified are exceptions, and to tag the whole group with the less desirable traits of some members," he said.

The "man at the top, "owner of the plant or business concern, is mainly responsible for the job discrimination in Brooklyn, although he usually charges discrimination among his employes, Mr. Washburn said, in answer to a question.

Mrs. Alfred H. Everson, chairman, presided at the meeting. Those present included Rev. Charles E. Bloodgood, Rev. Leroy C. Bandt, Frederick I. Daniels, Miss Elizabeth Dexter, Mrs. Mary Childs Draper, Miss Doris Eldredge, Edward T. Eagan, Douglas Grafflin, Frederic W. Howe Dr. Thurman Givan, Miss Margaret Kauffman, Walter Kruesi, Miss Arrietta Smith and Mrs. Kenneth Smith.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y

U. S. Engineers Brazenly Deny Typist a Job

MAR 28 1942

Personnel Head Refuses To Give Physician Certificate to Harlem Girl

MAR 28 1942

March 1[illegible], 1942. 6 P. M.
Miss Dorothy Lovett, 120
West 123d St.:

Your name has been furnished to the office division, 6th floor, 270 Broadway, New York City, for appointment to position of junior clerk, typist, $1,440 per annum. Please call immediately for interview with personnel director.

DIVISION ENGINEER,
North Atlantic Division.

6,270 $1,440

The telegram commanded the comely, brilliant typist, Miss Lovett, to appear to qualify for a Civil Service position under the United States Government. Miss Lovett appeared at 9 the following morning to find eight Caucasian girls ahead of her. All eight went in order and came out with physician certificates. Miss Lovett went in, met Miss Evans, the personnel officer, and was told without adieu that she should wait for a phone call on Monday or Tuesday. When Miss Lovett asked for a physician certificate, which she told Miss Evans was given the other girls, she was refused.

Sensing discrimination, the Wadleigh High School graduate waited until the tenth girl who had arrived went into Miss Evans' office and came out with the physician's certificate, as had all the rest. Miss Lovett then phoned Miss Evans, who replied, "You are developing a complex." The Star-News is citing the case to the President's Fair Employment Practice Committee.

On Tuesday, armed with a letter from a city official, Miss Lovett again went to the division office, but was bluntly denied an opportunity to present the letter to the officials in charge.

N. Y. LAW BANS RACE PREJUDICE

Pittsburgh
Courier

APR 25 1942

Governor Lehman Signs Law to End Job Bias.

NEW YORK, Apr. 23—The Empire State and the City of New York served notice on all persons who practice or propagate racial discrimination that in the future it is going to prove an expensive luxury. Governor Lehman signed the Mahoney bill making it a criminal offense to deny employment in any capacity in defense industries because of race, creed or color.

In signing the bill Governor Lehman said, "I am happy to sign this bill which makes it a crime to deny employment in industries engaged in war contracts to any person because of race, color or creed. By striking at bigotry and intolerance we strengthen the civil liberties of all the people of the state and make possible the realization of our maximum war effort."

According to the latest New York State anti-discrimination law, public utility companies refusing to employ a job applicant because of race, color or religion, are liable to a penalty of not less than $100 or more than $500 which must be paid to the aggrieved applicant.

N. Y. BARS BIAS PERIODICALS

Meanwhile in the New York City Council an unprecedented local law was introduced which is drastically aimed at the suppression of racial hatred.

The New York City ukase would prohibit "the sale, distribution and purchase of any newspaper, magazine, book, circular or booklet

which holds up any nationality, race, or religion, to public hatred, shame, contempt, ridicule, degradation or disgrace or tending to create disunity of the people, with the intention or tending to interfere with the operation or success of the military or naval forces of the United States."

35c-1942

NEW YORK

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

NEGROES NOT EMPLOYED BY COLGATE CO.

FEB 28 1942

Executive Admits 100-Year Concern Never Hired Race Workers

NEW YORK—A shocking policy of racial discrimination in employment followed by Colgate and company throughout its hundred years' history, was revealed this week by Atty. James Bright and Fred W. Martin, prominent Jersey City citizens, during a luncheon engagement here at the Hotel Theresa.

Bright and Martin were in New York with the view of presenting to the President's Fair Employment committee, now sitting here, the results of a conference held with the Colgate plant superintendent and personnel manager early this week in Jersey City.

Members of the Jersey City Fair Employment committee which has collaborated with the local National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Junior League, Bright and Martin revealed that Colgate's Plant Superintendent McMillan and Personnel Manager McNeal admitted that the company had hired no Negroes, to their knowledge in its more than a hundred years of business and that it has none in its employ now.

During the three-hour conference with Colgate officials at 105 Hudson street, Jersey City, the committee uncovered one of the strangest and most shameful records of race-bias yet to be brought to light.

Committee members thought the record strange and shameful, it was said, if for no other reason than the tremendous number of Negro consumers of Colgate products throughout the nation.

Rev. E. A. Hardge, a member of the committee and president of the Jersey City branch of the N. A. A. C. P., after asking whether Colgate had ever hired or was now hiring Negro workers and receiving a negative answer, inquired, "Does the Colgate company have any defense contracts?"

On being told by McNeal that the company did have such contracts, Rev. Hardge asked, "Do you know you are violating the President's executive order against discrimination by companies handling defense contracts?"

FEB 28 1942

McNeal then said he did not know the company was violating the President's anti-bias order; and added that he did not consider the company's policy discriminatory, explaining that the company had always followed a policy of giving employment to the sons and daughters of old employees, so that "our labor supply (sic) resembles a huge family."

McNeal continued by saying, "But we do accept applications from colored workers."

(An attempt to find among Jersey City's numerous colored population, from the oldest native born to the youngest, any knowledge of a colored person having worked at Colgate, within the memory of man, supported Mr. McNeal's statement that Colgate employees have constituted a strict and exclusive white family affair. Not a single colored resident of this city had ever heard of a colored worker at this company, which bosts a $50,000,000 working capital and admits there is a huge number of Negro consumers of its products.)

Plant Superintendent McMillan and McNeal both assured the committee that they had no personal prejudice against Negroes, McNeal offering in evidence that he once had sat at a table on a dining-car with a colored lady.

The committee was told that Colgate would furnish them with a statement on its policy within a few days. It is demanding the immediate employment of fifty to a hundred colored workers.

FEB 28 1942

The Jersey City committee sought the conference with Colgate officials after Negro girls were repeatedly refused consideration for employment. The case, Attorney Bright and Mr. Martin declared, is by no means closed. Their committee is at present awaiting the Colgate statement on policy, which they expect within a very few days.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Governor's Committee Reports Discrimination Against Negroes

MAR

Efforts to end job discrimination against Negroes, Jews and Italians have made less progress in Brooklyn during the past year than in any other center of defense industry in New York State, declared Robert Washburn, executive secretary of the Governor's Committee on Discrimination in Employment, Thursday at a luncheon meeting of the family service committee of the Brooklyn Bureau of Charities at 285 Schermerhorn street. He made an exception of the Navy Yard, whose employment practice was said to be fair.

MAR 21 1942

"We shall have to conquer this problem of job discrimination and conquer it in an extraordiarily short time, if we are going to save the country," warned Mr. Washburn. "It cannot be solved by legislation but by public opinion operating on employers and labor alike. There must be a general change of heart, a conversion, among people everywhere."

Job discrimination will not only play into Hitler's policy of splitting the country internally but will also deprive industry of valuable man-power in what "promises to be a long, tough war," Mr. Washburn said.

"Hitler operates two ways," he said. "He tries to make the minority groups discontented, and he also operates to see that they do not get a square deal. In this country he is able to twist the knife between American theory and American practice. We Americans adopted the Fourteenth Amendment but we have never lived up to it."

MAR 21 1942

Referring to the Negro, Mr Washburn said that there was probably no skilled job on any level of responsibility that some Negro was not now filling, but that this had not resulted in letting down the barriers to Negroes. "With any group against whom prejudice is working, we are apt to say that the well qualified are exceptions, and to tag the whole group with the less desirable traits of some members," he said.

The "man at the top, "owner of the plant or business concern, is mainly responsible for the job discrimination in Brooklyn, although he usually charges discrimination among his employes, Mr. Washburn said, in answer to a question.

Mrs. Alfred H. Everson, chairman, presided at the meeting. Those present included Rev. Charles E. Bloodgood, Rev. Leroy C. Bandt, Frederick I. Daniels, Miss Elizabeth Dexter, Mrs. Mary Childs Draper, Miss Doris Eldredge, Edward T. Eagan, Douglas Grafflin, Frederic W. Howe Dr. Thurman Givan, Miss Margaret Kauffman, Walter Kruesi, Miss Arrietta Smith and Mrs. Kenneth Smith.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y

U. S. Engineers Brazenly Deny Typist a Job

MAR 28 1942

Personnel Head Refuses To Give Physician Certificate to Harlem Girl

MAR 28

March 19, 1942. 6 P. M.

Miss Dorothy Lovett, 120 West 123d St.:

Your name has been furnished to the office division, 6th floor, 270 Broadway, New York City, for appointment to position of junior clerk, typist, $1,440 per annum. Please call immediately for interview with personnel director.

DIVISION ENGINEER,
North Atlantic Division.

6,270 $1,440.

The telegram commanded the comely, brilliant typist, Miss Lovett, to appear to qualify for a Civil Service position under the United States Government. Miss Lovett appeared at 9 the following morning to find eight Caucasian girls ahead of her. All eight went in order and came out with physician certificates. Miss Lovett went in, met Miss Evans, the personnel officer, and was told without adieu that she should wait for a phone call on Monday or Tuesday. When Miss Lovett asked for a physician certificate, which she told Miss Evans was given the other girls, she was refused.

Sensing discrimination, the Wadleigh High School graduate waited until the tenth girl who had arrived went into Miss Evans' office and came out with the physician's certificate, as had all the rest. Miss Lovett then phoned Miss Evans, who replied, "You are developing a complex." The Star-News is citing the case to the President's Fair Employment Practice Committee.

On Tuesday, armed with a letter from a city official, Miss Lovett again went to the division office, but was bluntly denied an opportunity to present the letter to the officials in charge.

N. Y. LAW BANS RACE PREJUDICE

APR 25 1942

Governor Lehman Signs Law to End Job Bias.

NEW YORK, Apr. 23—The Empire State and the City of New York served notice on all persons who practice or propagate racial discrimination that in the future it is going to prove an expensive luxury. Governor Lehman signed the Mahoney bill making it a criminal offense to deny employment in any capacity in defense industries because of race, creed or color.

In signing the bill Governor Lehman said, "I am happy to sign this bill which makes it a crime to deny employment in industries engaged in war contracts to any person because of race, color or creed. By striking at bigotry and intolerance we strengthen the civil liberties of all the people of the state and make possible the realization of our maximum war effort."

According to the latest New York State anti-discrimination law, public utility companies refusing to employ a job applicant because of race, color or religion, are liable to a penalty of not less than $100 or more than $500 which must be paid to the aggrieved applicant.

N. Y. BARS BIAS PERIODICALS

Meanwhile in the New York City Council an unprecedented local law was introduced which is drastically aimed at the suppression of racial hatred.

The New York City ukase would prohibit "the sale, distribution and purchase of any newspaper, magazine, book, circular or booklet which holds up any nationality, race, or religion, to public hatred, shame, contempt, ridicule, degradation or disgrace or tending to create disunity of the people, with the intention or tending to interfere with the operation or success of the military or naval forces of the United States."

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

U. S. SEIZES PLANT WHICH BARRED NEGRO

Brewster Airplane Firm Found Handicapped By Alien Labor

MAY 2 - 1942

NEW YORK—The Brewster Aeronautical corporation, taken over by the U. S. Navy, Monday, April 20, for a slow-up in production, also refused to hire qualified Negroes for skilled jobs. It is reported that Brewster employed enemy aliens in key positions.

The Navy said that Brewster's production was so low that not one plane had been finished since last October.

On August 1, 1941, the N.A.A.C.P. publicly cited three affidavits made by Negroes who had applied at Brewster's Long Island City plant for jobs; one as a sheet metal worker, one as a riveter and one as an airplane and engine mechanic. They were refused, while whites were being hired for the same type of work.

On August 13, the N.A.A.C.P noted that after heavy pressure, "for the first time in its history Brewster took on a Negro employe in the regular course of hiring, without any special request." One of the men who was previously refused was called back and hired, not as a riveter, for which job he had applied, but as a sheet metal helper.

MAY 2 - 1942

The N.A.A.C.P. learned on good authority that at about the same time Brewster made "token" employment of 25 colored workers in semi-skilled capacities, and has hired none since. The N.A.A.C.P. also has on good authority, that there are eight or nine colored men who work as porters in addition to the 25 in the sheet metal department.

35c

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Cafeteria Employees Union Working To Halt Discrimination

MAY 23 1942

Passage of a vigorous resolution condemning discrimination in industry because of "race, color or creed" and hailing progress made recently in overcoming it in union cafeterias, was one of the high points of a meeting of 300 shop chairmen representing 8,000 working members of the Cafeteria Employees Union, Local 302, A. F. of L. on May 15.

The resolution, dealing specifically with the problem of the cafeteria workers in this connection, pointed out that the contracts of the Union for many years past had at all times outlawed such discrimination.

MAY 23 1942

However, the resolution points out, "in spite of this, it has been impossible for the Union to place Negroes or other dark-skinned workers on permanent jobs on the counter or on the floor, except in certain predominantly Negro territories, because of the one-week trial period which gives the employer the right to refuse the services of any worker during the first week of employment for whatever reason he may see fit."

The resolution commended the officers of the Union for the discussions now being held with the employers on this question and for the first steps already taken in the direction of wiping out discrimination signalized by "the placing of Negro men and women on the floor of certain of our shops" where they had formerly not been accepted.

It was pointed out in the resolution that such discrimination was contrary to the "public policy of our country in its all-out war effort." It added that such practices were not "in accordance with the democratic principles for which the entire war is being fought."

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Groups Asking More Negroes 'n Big Stores

JUN 27 1942

Sparked by a resolution of the 9,300 United Department Stores Employes Union members last May 10, urging employment of Negroes in all capacities in Gimbel's, Bloomingdale's, Stern's, Oppenheim-Collins, Hearns and Macy's, a campaign was officially launched last Tuesday at a conference in the NY State Building, 80 Centre st, to broaden employment opportunities for Negroes in the large downtown department stores. Of approximately 25,000 workers in these stores now, there are about 150 Negroes.

35c

Present at the Centre st meeting were representatives of the Governor's Committee on Discrimination in Employment and of the Joint Committee to End Employment Discrimination in Department Stores. Alexander C. Doyle, GCDE executive secretary, announced after the conference that he would request his chairman, Frieda Miller, to call the city's department store owners to confer with the union and all other interested groups this week.

George Meiser, Henry K. Craft, Ewart Guinier, Mrs. C. C. Saunders, Jessie Scott and Clarence Johnson, representing the Joint Committee, hailed the union's stand as more than a mere gesture or "act of paternalism," pointing out:

JUN 27 1942

- that those few Negroes employed are union members,
- that Eugene Ellis, Bloomingdale elevator starter, and president of his local, and William Atkinson have both been leaders in the fight to integrate Negroes in jobs other than the most menial ones.

Ellis, it was also recalled, was told by the Bloomingdale management that it "would be happy to hire Negro salespeople, clerks and the like if the white employes don't mind." The union's contract with Bloomingdale's calls for employment of Negroes in all capacities.

JUN 27 1942

Typical of the resolutions passed by the locals of each store is that of the Hearn's group which called for—

- throwing open by government and employers all branches of service and industry to Negro Americans;
- employment of qualified Negroes in department stores at the rate of 25 percent of all persons hired until they are seven percent of the store personnel;
- a city-wide conference of all union and government personnel to launch a program of Negro employment.

JUN 27 1942

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

Job Discrimination on Decrease in N.Y.

AUG 8 1942

NEW YORK.—While colored workers compose only 1.2 per cent of the 180,000 employees in 120 State war industries recently investigated, a report issued this week declared that colored employment is increasing steadily.

Miss Frieda S. Miller, chairman of the Committee on Discrimination in Employment of the State War Council which made the original investigation, reported that rechecks during the past few weeks indicated that the majority of the companies are now actively seeking colored workers.

"For example," she declared, "one plant which employed sixty colored persons in March added 29 in May, another increased its colored staff from 30 to 105, and still another which never used a colored person on production in the past has accepted a sizeable group for its training school."

AUG 8 1942

It was also pointed out that a decided improvement has been made in the enrollment of colored persons in the vocational defense schools here.

Specific examples of improvements in, hiring practices noted in the report included the following:

"1. In March, no colored workers were employed in the Western Electric Company's tube plant in New York City. When revisited on July 13, the company was found to be employing twenty colored persons and is considering plans for inducting more in its Kearney, N.J., plant.

AUG 8 1942

"2. When first visited by a committee field representative, Brooklyn Aircraft employed nine colored persons out of a total personnel of 900. Today, eighty are employed.

"3. Late in March, a committee investigator found seventy-five colored workers employed by the Ford Instrument Company out of a total of 5,000. On June 8, 125 were employed on production work. Some were being trained as expert mechanics."

Race Bias Broken By Butcher Union

P.M.
N.Y., N.Y.

SEP 22 1942

The fight to give Negroes equal employment opportunities has taken a step forward in New York City.

Local 623, Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America, AFL, succeeded for the first time in getting full-time employment for Negro butchers in all-white neighborhoods.

Herman Spring is one of the biggest of the independent butchers. His shops at 982 Amsterdam Ave., 136 Dyckman St., and 519 W. 181st St., employ as many as 18 men each. He agreed to give a Negro butcher steady employment in each of the stores.

SEP 22 1942

Previously, the best the local had been able to do was get one-day relief employment in some stores for the 150 Negroes in its membership.

35c-1942

NEW YORK

Amsterdam Star-News
New York, N. Y.

McLaurin In Job Vacated By Randolph

AUG 22 1942

Post on Governor's Committee Is Filled; Successes Reported

By J. ROBERT SMITH
(Star-News Labor Editor)

It was officially announced at a labor press conference called by Frieda S. Miller, industrial commissioner of New York at the State Building Monday, that Benjamin F. McLaurin, of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, had replaced A. Philip Randolph, who resigned as a member of the Governor's Committee on Discrimination in Employment.

Mr. McLaurin

The appointment came on the heels of a recommendation made to the commissioner last June when this writer in his column, "Labor's Front," suggested that Randolph resign from the committee due to lack of time to render the required service and that McLaurin be named in his place.

Need Trained Negroes

AUG 22 1942

It was brought out at the conference that one of the serious problems facing the committee at this time is the indifference of Negroes to qualify themselves for defense jobs by attending the various defense training schools in the city.

The commissioner gave an overall picture of the work that her field representatives had done during the month of July including the placement of nine Negroes in the Fairchild Corporation, which was one of the recalcitrant firms summoned to appear before the President's Fair Employment Practice Committee for its discriminatory policies last February.

While Negroes comprise only 1.2 percent of the 180.000 employes in 120 State war industries recently investigated by the committee, Miss Miller told reporters that Negro employment is increasing steadily and also predicted that thousands more will move into armament production before the end of the year.

Seeking Negroes

The commissioner, who is chairman of the committee, stressed the fact that the proportion of Negroes in these plants a year ago was considerably less than at the time of these visits and that rechecks during the past few weeks indicate that the majority of the companies are now actively seeking Negro workers.

"For example," she declared, "one plant which employed 60 Negroes in March added 29 in May, another increased its Negro staff from 30 to 105, and still another which never used a colored person on production in the past, has accepted a sizeable group for its training school.

AUG 22 1942

"As the result of pressure by our committee and other groups, one New York firm, which previously excluded them, now is hiring eight Negroes to every white person and will continue to do so until a fair proportion is reached. Many plants have upgraded Negroes to supervisory jobs and others have taken on Negro technicians."

"These are just a few examples of the committee's accomplishments selected at random," Miss Miller declared, "and it should be remembered that they are accomplishments in the plants we have visited most recently. Much more impressive results can be found in the plants which abandoned discriminatory hiring practices voluntarily and in those we visited late in 1941 and early this year."

Improvements Noted

Specific examples of improvements in hiring practices noted in her report, included the following:

1. In March, no Negroes were employed in the Western Electric Company's tube plant in New York City. When re-visited on July 13 to learn what employment, if any, had followed the committee's appeal, the company was found to be employing 20 Negroes. The personnel manager had just placed a Negro girl, a Virginia University graduate, in his office as a receptionist to assist him in interviewing applicants. The company is considering plans for inducting more Negroes and reports considerable success in their use at the Kearny (N. J.) plant.

2. When first visited by a committee field representative, Brooklyn Aircraft employed nine Negroes out of a total personnel of 900. Today, as a result of the committee's efforts, 80 Negroes are employed.

AUG 22 1942

3. Following representations by the committee, Pepsi-Cola Company has upgraded six Negroes from porter jobs and has just taken on a salesman of that race at a good salary.

Liberalized Practices

4. Late in March, a committee investigator found 75 Negroes employed by the Ford Instrument Company out of a total of 5,000 workers. Following the committee's appeal, the company liberalized its practices and on June 8 125 Negroes on production work. Some of this group were being trained as expert mechanics.

Declaring that many employers working on war contracts have voluntarily recognized the need for relaxing employment specifications based on race, religion or national origin, Miss Miller revealed that the use of appeal and persuasion by the committee has brought tangible results in many cases and promises of complete cooperation in others.

AUG 22 1942

Miss Miller's analysis of the committee's activities during the past four months shows that 120 employers, with a total of nearly 200,000 employes, have been investigated by her field representatives following receipt of complaints from groups or individuals. In the majority of these cases it was determined that while the specific complaint was unjustified, the policies and practices of the companies appeared to be definitely discriminatory.

Provisions of the law were explained and second visits scheduled to check on compliance. While no complete tabulation is available, Miss Miller said that almost all of these plants have commenced to hire persons from groups discriminated against in the past.

Vicious Circle

The commissioner said that last year when the committee started its work, it found that defense training schools were linked in "a particularly vicious circle." Few members of so-called minority groups were accepted on the ground that employers wouldn't hire them, she explained, and employers, at the same time, were excusing their failure to employ such people by pointing out that trained candidates were not available.

"During recent months, the committee has kept in constant touch with the vocational defense schools to bring a better balance into the student body in keeping with our objective," Miller declared. "As the U. S. Employment Service plays a major part in the selection and placement of trainees, we have also emphasized the problem to that agency.

AUG 22 1942

"A decided improvement has been accomplished and we are confident it will continue. In one school, for example, where no Negroes were enrolled two months ago, 22 are in training today. We are also presenting the schools and employers with lists of reliable group organizations through which competent workers or trainees may be recruited. This is developing into a resource of considerable importance."

Two Negroes on Staff

Commissioner Miller said that the committee is still receiving many complaints from persons who are being barred from employment in war industries because of their national origin or because they are aliens.

She added that the procedure recently announced by the President for dealing with this problem would be of considerable help but revealed that a conference with Attorney General Biddle had been requested with a view to ironing out discrepancies.

Among her field representatives are Charles Berkley, formerly of the Brooklyn Urban League, and John Davis.

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Position Denied By PO, Girl Claims

NOV 14 1942

The charge that the USCivil Service Commission has refused to appoint her as temporary postoffice typist, despite the fact that she had a rating of over 88 per cent on the eligible list and was called for an interview, was made last week by Joyce Millville of 9 Hancock st, Brooklyn. In her statement to *PV* Miss Millville said:

"About a month ago—Oct. 8, to be exact—I received a letter from the US Post Office stating that I had been certified by the Civil Service register for appointment as a temporary sub-clerk, typist, at 65 cents an hour.

NOV 14 1942

"I went for the interview at the specified date and time. There were about five girls. I was the only colored. We were all interviewed together and the interviewer told us we would hear from her in a few weeks, letting us know if we had been accepted and in what postoffice we would work.

"As I said, I waited about a month to hear from them, and when I didn't I went to get some information on the matter. When I arrived they told me that all the appointments had been made and there was nothing they could do about it. I can see no answer for it but discrimination. My mark is 88.33 per cent."

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

NYState Slave Market Charged By Woman Rescued by Minister

OCT 3 - 1942

By WITTIE ANNA BIGGINS

Extra

A $24-$25 a week defense job, implying overtime at double pay, free transportation by bus and board and lodging, landed 33-year-old Viola Jones, [redacted] W 133 st, into a slave market run by Hukley and Sons (white Georgians) at Ontario, NY, according to Miss Jones's story to PV last Monday. After two weeks of horrid experience, she was rescued by her pastor, Bishop B. C. Lawson of Refuge Church of Christ, and is seeking help to rescue about 100 more Negroes stranded there and unable to earn fare back to their homes in New York and North Carolina. OCT 3 - 1942

One of the Negro chauffeurs operating two Huxley plant buses thru NY, with a woman companion, offered Miss Jones a job at a defense plant canning food for soldiers, wages per hour netting $24 to $25 a week for eight hours a day, double pay for overtime, free transportation, board and lodging—in fact, all expenses paid.

Since she was without a job, Miss Jones's story goes, she was glad of the big money offer and joined the bus load of about 40 workers—six or more being from NY. But at Ontario, however, Huxley declared they were liars, that the chauffeur did not tell them such things. So they had to pay for food whether they ate it or not—cereals for breakfast; cabbage, boiled potatoes and beans for dinner, and what was left over for supper—the same menus seven days a week. Boards nailed together made the dinner table, and crude board benches served as chairs at the table. OCT 3 - 1942

They worked from 7 am to 6 pm except a few days, when they quit at 3 pm in order to lower wages. They canned vegetables every day, but Sunday the women had to go with men to farms and gather in the vegetables. At night they stayed in barracks, two bunks high, each barrack housing 12 or more men, women and children. Without a single chair, they sat on beds. Only two showers were provided for the 100 persons, but no warm water in the barracks nor locks on doors. Doors were wired up at night to keep out intruders.

Pay day brought deductions for transportation to the plant, food, lodging, uniform and blanket, and Viola's first week's salary was $1.01. The second week, with uniform and blanket costs already paid, she earned $5. OCT 3 - 1942

But Huxley, Miss Jones stated, curses long and loud all Negroes who complain about pay, then fires them and makes them leave the barracks. Without fare to return home, they must take what he gives until someone rescues them, since the nearest town is Rochester, 27 miles away.

Daily World
Atlanta. Ga.

Victory For Mail Clerks

NOV 2 - 1942

Decision Made By Att'y Gen'l

NEW YORK— (ANP) — A notable legal opinion, affecting the union rights of colored railway mail workers, was rendered last week when Att'y Gen., John Bennett, Jr., Democratic candidate for governor, substained an action of the New York chapter of the Railway Mail association in refusing to bar Negroes from membership.

The attorney general's opinion was written at the request of Frieda S. Miller, state industrial commissioner and chairman of the anti-discrimination committee of the state war council. Commenting on his opinion, Mr. Bennett declared that jim crow has been banished from New York labor organizations and that the state was determined to keep it out. NOV 2 - 1942

REQUEST REFUSED

According to an announcement accompanying publication of the attorney general's opinion, the national officers of the Railway Mail association recently called upon the organization's New York chapter of conform with the policy of the national body in barring from membership all who are not members of the Caucasian race or native American Indians. The New York chapter refused to do so.

The RMA is an organization of railway mail workers n the employ of the federal government and affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

Mr. Bennett pointed out that compliance with the demand for the barring of Negroes would be in violation of Section 43 of th civil rights law of this state, which forbids a labor organization directly to deny membership on the ground of race, color, or creed.

"New York state has the power to enact laws for the protection of its inhabitants and to provide for their general welfare," Mr. Bennett wrote in the opinion addressed to Commissioner Miller.

"JIM CROW KILLED"

"Certainly the guarantee of equal rights in a labor organization to persons, regardless of race, or creed, cannot be regarded as a burden on the free flow on interstate commerce. NOV 2 - 1942

"Be it noted, too, that the Congress of the United States has enacted no law which bars such action by New York State to enforce rights to all its people.

"Jim Crow was killed and driven out of New York State labor organizations by enactment of Section 43 of the Civil Rights law. There is no doubt that the Railway Mail association is a labor organization. I seriously question whether even the Congress of the United States, under the constitution of the United States, can revive jim crow in the New York state labor movement.

The Railway Mail association certainly cannot do so in definance of our laws, and the New York City branch of their association is to commend for its refusal to do so."

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

BENNETT ATTACKS 'JIM CROW' BARRIER

Upholds Mail Group in State in Its Refusal to Bar Negroes From Membership

OCT 27 1942

CIVIL RIGHTS LAW CITED

Attorney General's Opinion Is Given at Request of Industrial Commissioner

OCT 27 1942

In an opinion written at the request of Frieda S. Miller, State Industrial Commissioner and chairman of the Anti-Discrimination Committee of the State War Council, Attorney General John J. Bennett Jr., Democratic candidate for Governor, declared yesterday that "Jim Crow" has been banished from New York labor organization and that the State was determined to make the exile permanent.

Mr. Bennett's opinion sustained an action of the New York chapter of the Railway Mail Association, an organization of railway mail workers in the employ of the Federal Government and affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, in refusing to bar Negroes from membership.

According to an announcement accompanying publication of Mr. Bennett's opinion, national officers of the Railway Mail Association recently called upon the New York chapter of the organization to conform with the policy of the national organization in barring from membership all who are not members of the Caucasian race or native American Indians. The New York chapter refused to do so.

Mr. Bennett pointed out that compliance with the demand for the barring of Negroes would be in violation of Section 43 of the Civil Rights Law of this State, which forbids a labor organization directly or indirectly to deny membership on the ground of race, color or creed. OCT 27 1942

"New York State has the power to enact laws for the protection of its inhabitants and to provide for their general welfare," Mr. Bennett wrote in the opinion addressed to Commissioner Miller.

"Certainly the guarantee of equal rights in a labor organization to persons, regardless of race, color or creed, cannot be regarded as a burden on the free flow of interstate commerce. OCT 27 1942

"Be it noted, too, that the Congress of the United States has enacted no law which bars such action by New York State to enforce equal rights to all its people.

"Jim Crow was killed and driven out of New York State labor organizations by enactment of Section 43 of the Civil Rights law. There is no doubt that the Railway Mail Association is a labor organization. I seriously question whether even the Congress of the United tSates, under the Constitution of the United States, can revive Jim Crow in the New York State labor movement. The Railway Mail Association certainly cannot do so in defiance of our laws, and the New York City branch of their association is to be commended for its refusal to do so."

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Bennett Outlaws Mail Clerks Bias

NOV 7 - 1942

Atty. Gen., John J. Bennett jr. in an opinion rendered last week to Frieda Miller, Industrial Commissioner of the State of New York, sustained the decision of the New York City chapter of the Railway Mail Association, to exclude from its constitution and by-laws a provision which would exclude Negroes from membership in the association.

The controversy came about when national officials of the association called upon the NYC local to amend its constitution to conform with the constitution of the national association, which provides that members must be of the Caucasian race or native American Indians.

The local, thru its secretary, Sidney O. Shapiro, put the matter before Commissioner Miller, chairman of the Anti-Job Discrimination Committee of the New York State War Council. Commissioner Miller called upon Atty. Gen. Bennett, whose opinion pointed out that such a provision would be entirely contrary to section 43 of the Civil Rights Law of the state of New York. NOV 7 - 1942

35c-1942

NEW YORK

NEGRO LABOR VICTORY COMMITTEE IN PROTEST AGAINST JIM-CROW LOCAL

New York Age, N.Y.

DEC 26 1942

Representatives of the 125 CIO, AFL and Independent Unions comprising the membership of the Negro Labor Victory Committee empowered the Administrative Secretary, Mrs. Dorothy K. Funn to send the following telegram to Mr. Paul V. McNutt on the challenge to the American way of such an action as setting up Jim-crow locals in any union:

"Press report of December 14th stated that the Boilermakers Union, AFL at the Kaiser Shipyards plans to organize Jimcrow locals for the Negro workmen. Jimcrow will not strengthen the ranks of labor nor will it contribute to attaining production goals which call for the full utilization of man and woman power on the basis of complete equality. Victory on the production line cannot be won by a capitulation to the anti-democratic attitude of Tom Ray. We urge that you act immediately in conformity with your declaration of December 3rd: "Prejudice and discrimination which limit the use of Negroes must go down."

N.Y.

C

Will Probe Jim Crow in Locals—Green

DEC 29 19

Daily Worker N.Y.

DEC 29 1942

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, has promised to investigate proposed jim-crow locals on the West Coast shipyards, according to an announcement here by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

N.Y.

35c

The NAACP said that it had wired Green protesting the segregation proposals of Tom Ray, of Local 72, Boilermakers Union, at the Kaiser shipyard. It expressed surprise at Green's wire that the NAACP was the first to inform Green of Ray's proposal.

Green's wire, which was received Dec. 19, read:

DEC 29 1942

"Your telegram conveys to me first information I have received regarding race discrimination at Portland, Oregon. I will inquire into matter immediately because it is the purpose and policy of the American Federation of Labor to prevent race discrimination and instead to establish and maintain the exercise of all rights of workers regardless of race, creed, or nationality."

35c-1942
Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Camel Cigarettes Queried As To Bias

35c

Following PV's expose of a Camel cigarette broadcast refusing to use a Negro artist, other interested persons have taken up the matter, seeking an explanation from the makers of Camels. One such action has been addressed to PV by William G. Black, sales manager of Interstate United Newspapers, NY. Excerpts follow:

"My office has been flooded with letters from most of America's Negro publishers requesting that we at Interstate United Newspapers check with the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. to find out if they were sufficiently responsible for the insult to **Dorothy Maynor** as recited in **Miss Ilka Chase's** best seller, **Past Imperfect** to warrant a nationwide boycott of **Camel Cigarettes by Negro Americans.**

"In this regard the writer contacted S. Clay Williams, chairman of the board of directors of the R. J. Reynolds organization. In the lively exchange of letters which ensued from the photostatic and original copies of letters sent you by your readers and then sent on to us were sent to the makers of Camels so that they could see first-hand how much Negro Americans resent being denied their rights as Americans to appear on commercial radio programs and all other types of racial prejudice.

"We are convinced that the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. was in no way responsible for this insult to the race in general and Miss Maynor in particular. The insult was made by someone not connected with the makers of Camel cigarettes and not authorized to set or determine the policy of the R. J. Reynolds Co.

"In view of the foregoing and because of the fact that the R. J. Reynolds Co. is one of America's biggest employers of Negroes plus the fact that it has a clean bill of health with the Federal Government.

"We herewith request that you pass the word along to all organizations in your community, civic, social, church and fraternal, asking them not to start a war at home by boycotting Camel Cigarettes."

NORTH CAROLINA

Durham, N. C., Morning Herald
August 12, 1942

Governor Attacked In Speech At Labor Federation Meeting

Edward H. Weylar Of Louisville, Ky., Hits Broughton's Stand On Capital And Labor

Asheville, Aug. 11.—(AP)—After hearing speakers favor the Federalization of unemployment compensation insurance and warn that labor must fight to make democracy work in industry, the North Carolina State Federation of Labor today renominated all officers. Nomination is tantamount to election, which will take place at tomorrow's closing session.

Edward H. Weylar of Louisville, Ky., secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky State Federation of Labor, favored all unemployment compensation placed under Federal authorities, charging that under State control employers had "battered benefits to the lowest possible level."

Attacking Governor Broughton, Mr. Weylar said, "I'll point out one or two things in this country I don't like. One is that Governor Broughton, (who spoke on Monday) who stood here before you the other day and told you about cooperation of labor and capital. Ninety-five to 98 per cent of the Negroes in North Carolina in the last 100 years have not had enough to eat. Forty-five per cent of the white people in the State have been in the same shape."

Joe Boyd of High Point, organizer for the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, reported that in less than a year 27 charters have been granted in North Carolina and 13 working agreements have been reached.

Up to Dec. 7 "selfish interests were taking us down the road toward fascism," Mr. Boyd asserted. "Fascism is only the putrefaction of capitalism. You and I are democracy.

"If we don't democratize industry in the United States before the end of the war there won't be any democracy to speak of. We've got to do this job, crisis or no crisis."

Mr. Boyd was sent to North Carolina from Oregon, where he was working for the American Federation of Labor in the lumber industry last Summer.

The Federation adopted resolutions upholding President C. A. Fink of Salisbury in recalling the honorary membership bestowed upon Senator Robert R. Reynolds for his support of "anti-labor" legislation, and appointing a special committee to seek pardons for five men in Guilford County sentenced to prison terms in connection with burning of a truck during a labor dispute, among others.

Senator Reynolds was described in the resolution concerning him as "this unworthy, unreliable and unpredictable Senator from North Carolina."

Officers re-nominated were President Fink; H. L. Kiser of Charlotte, first vice president; H. G. Fisher of Salisbury, secretary-treasurer; Broady Cook of Durham, sergeant-at-arms; A. E. Brown of Durham, chaplain; and the following district vice presidents: L. D. Warren of Asheville, J. A. Scoggins of Charlotte, F. N. Cuddihy of the Salisbury-Spencer chapter; J. T. Moss of High Point, Cy Chisholm of Winston-Salem, R. D. Apple of Greensboro, M. F. Johnson of Durham, Joe Powers of Raleigh, C. B. Kornegay of Wilmington, D. C. Beard of Pittsboro and E. G. Harvey of Reidsville. No vice president for the Plymouth district was named at the request of that delegation. The convention voted to amend the by-laws to name a Negro vice president at large, to be elected by Negro union members.

35c-1942

OHIO

COMPANY PAYS FANTASTIC BONUSES TO "WHITES ONLY"

Courier Pittsburgh, Pa.

APR 4 1942

CLEVELAND, O., April 2—Negro workers were completely jim-crowed from the huge war profits made by the Jack & Heintz company of this city and from the fantastic salaries and bonuses paid out by the company to its white employees.

Jack & Heintz, specializing in the manufacture of airplane starters, have war contracts totaling almost sixty million dollars.

Private secretaries with Jack & Heintz were paid as much as $40,000 last year in salaries and bonuses. Ordinary bookkeepers, raised to the status of auditors, gobbled up as much as $25,000 and $30,000 last year.

Jack & Heintz Company last year is reported to have paid out more than $1,000,000 in income tax bonuses for its employes.

This year, monthly bonuses of ordinary laboring employes were increased from $30 a month to [illegible] a month.

But no black workers shared in the millions of war profits of Jack & Heintz because the jobs at Jack & Heintz go to white workers and not colored workers.

Courier representatives called at the employment office of Jack & Heintz in the Hanna building to learn if there were any colored employes who had benefited from the liberal disposition of the company's profits.

The offisial in charge seemed surprised that such information should be sought. He was sure, despite the insistence of The Courier representatives, that there were no Negro employes.

"You see," he explained, "our work is very technical and highly specialized. We have to get machinists. Right now we are busy rounding up all the watchmakers we can, our work is just that delicate."

That sounded like an excuse for the company, so he was pressed for information about the company's motor assembly plant in Cleveland. Surely, motor assembly didn't require watchmakers or machinists' experience.

"Well, we use girls for that work," he replied.

A visit to the Jack & Heintz main plant in Bedford, just outside Cleveland, brought the same results.

A guard rushed out to meet The Courier representatives. He, too, was surprised when queried about colored workers. He didn't know any.

He sought to question one of the company officials, but he was too busy and too mean looking to be bothered.

In the employment office in the city, a placard containing excerpts from the President's Executive Order on Fair Employment Practices is posted on the wall.

But, in spite of this, Jack & Heintz deal around Negroes in jobs and war profits.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

WON'T WORK WITH ALIENS

JUN 27 1942

Akron Rubber Men Strike on Return of Non-Citizens

AKRON, Ohio, June 24 (AP)—A sit-down strike by sixty C. I. O. mill room employes refusing to work with twenty-five reinstated alien employes made 500 others idle today and halted production in the General Tire and Rubber Company's tire and tubes division, engaged wholly in war production.

JUN 25 1942

The mill room employes reporting on the 7 A. M. shift failed to start work as the aliens, also members of the C. I. O. United Rubber Workers, returned to their jobs for the first time since Pearl Harbor.

By mid-morning the sit-down resulted in a production loss that forced curtailment of operations throughout the tire and tubes division.

Company officials said they were "in the middle on the entire proposition" and would wait for union action.

35c

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Suit Is Filed To Force Plant To Hire Race Women

Action Taken Against Ohio Machine Company

NOV. 24, 1942

CLEVELAND, Ohio —(SNS)—In the first effort to secure a restraining order forcing an aircraft industry to discontinue its policy of refusing to hire Negro women because of race, Miss Effie Mae Turner filed suit Monday against the Warner and Swasey Company world's largest lathe machine maker.

35c

The action came through the Future Outlook League, which has acted in behalf of numerous racial discrimination victims in the past, and which also has filed action against Thompson Air Craft Production Company and Thompson Product, Incorporated, world's largest air-craft parts makers.

Miss Turner contends that although she completed 241 hours of training at a Cleveland technical school, received a certificate issued by the federal government and applied for work at the defendant's plant which had urged women to apply for the jobs, she was refused employment solely on the basis of her color. She also states that hundreds of other women of color have applied for work at this and similar plants and have been refused employment simply because they were persons of the Negro race.

NOV 24, 1942

WANT DEMOCRACY

The plaintiff states that she and all other Negro women demand the right to work in all plants wherever situated in order that Negroes may perform their full share in helping to win the global war and thereby "defeat, all over the world, slavery, bigotry, intolerance, Nazism, and Facism." The petition states further: "Negroes want Democracy established for all of the peoples of the world. They want the Atlantic Charter extended to all of the peoples of the world. They want freedom of the press and freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom from want, granted to all of the peoples of the world and that Americans will not perish from the earth."

35c

The petitioner contends that denial of employment to her and other Negro women, similarly qualified, is in violation of Amendment 5 of the Constitution of the United States, Section 1, Article L., of the Constitution and of the President's Order No. 8802.

Chester K. Gillespie, Clayborne George and Harvey J. Johnson are attorneys for the plaintiff.

PENNSYLVANIA

35c-1942
Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

White Only

35-C

Geo. Zifferblatt & Co. carried the following advertisement in the Evening Bulletin of Tuesday, June 23, on page 33, under the caption "Female Help Wanted."

GIRLS OVER 21, WHITE, AS LEARNERS ON AUTOMATIC CIGAR MACHINISTS. GOOD OPPORT.

GEO. ZIFFERBLATT & CO., N. E. COR. 3rd & SPRUCE.

The TRIBUNE called Zifferblatt & Company and was informed that they were the manufacturers of Habanello cigars. In the Evening Bulletin, there were a dozen advertisements designating the racial identity of help wanted as white or colored.

JUN 27 1942

JUN 27 1942

SOUTH CAROLINA

35c-1942
Charleston S. C. News & Courier
April 17, 1942

Against Discrimination

With the saying of Mr. J. R. Weyler in his address to the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners the other day that "there should be no discrimination against negroes" in employment The News and Courier is in full agreement, and it recalls that discrimination of that kind has not been practiced in South Carolina, unless very lately. The News and Courier has not heard of it.

35c

To the contrary, negro carpenters and joiners as well as white always have been employed in South Carolina, and we suppose that the houses not only in Charleston but in every part of the state are more the product of negro than of white men. We think that it is the rarely exceptional white employer in this part of the country, who, when he builds a house, or has repairs made, raises any question about the color of the carpenters and joiners. We have had experience in employment of colored carpenters, contractors too, in the erection of residences in Charleston and other towns and have found them entirely satisfactory.

SC

The News and Courier thinks that Mr. Weyler has done well in speaking against discrimination in the employment of negro carpenters and joiners, much as it seems to us scarcely necessary here in South Carolina. It may be that in other parts of the United States, not Southern, discrimination of that kind has been practiced. Southern employers are unacquainted with it.

School Rule Bans Negroes at Union Defense Meeting

Houston Post, Houston

JAN 11 1942

35c

Negro members of the Houston locals of the Steel Workers' Organizing committee will be unable to attend the union's defense mass meetnig Sunday at the Deady junior high school because of a ruling of school authorities, Frank A. Hardesty, district diretcor of the union, said Saturday.

Tex.

"We were notified Saturday that negroes would not be permitted to attend a meeting in a school for whites," Mr. Hardesty said.

"We will hold another meeting which the negroes may attend," the union official said.

JAN 11 1942

Noel R. Beddow, executive director of the Steel Workers' Organizing committee in Alabama, will speak at the rally.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

WHITE SEAMEN FORCE HIRING OF NEGROES

APR 4 - 1942

Crew Members Claim "No Objection" In Total War Effort

TEXAS CITY, Texas—(ANP) — "We, the undersigned members of the crew of the SS American Press have no objections to sailing with colored members in our all-out effort to win the war against Fascism," said a statement issued by 13 white members of the crew of the SS American Press, Lykes Bros. ship, here last week, in demonstrating that they understood fully the meaning of an all-out fight against Fascism.

45c

The company had tried to persuade the crew to refuse to sail with three Negro replacements sent out from the union hall in Texas City. However, the affirmation of democracy made by the crew forced the company to hire the Negro seamen and to send the ship out on schedule.

According to Joe Curran, president of National Maritime union, dispute began last March 3 when he received a wire from H. K. Deuchare, Texas City agent that Port Capt. H. E. Johnson refused to accept Negro replacements for the Press.

Deuchare was immediately advised if the company was responsible for discrimination, the Maritime commission be informed at once and the company made to put its position in writing.

"If the crew is responsible," Curran added, "it is not the policy of the union to force crew to accept where disruption will be the result."

In the following Curran's advice, Deuchare wired the commission the following day, stating that Lykes Bros. had refused employment to three competent and certified Negro seamen.

APR 4 - 1942

A few days later, Port Capt. Johnson stated the company's position in writing and was informed by Deuchare of a letter from President Roosevelt to the NUM stating that "Questions of race, creed and color have no place in determining who are to man the ships."

Immediately the company sought to have the 13 white crew members object to working with Negroes, but were thwarted when the crew expressed their willingness to sail with colored seamen.

The ship was due to sail at daybreak on March 9 and the company hurried to acquiesce to the expressed desire of the crew, and the ship embarked for its destination on schedule.

Commenting upon the incident, Deuchare declared it "a victory for the union, inasmuch as it happened in the most reactionary state of the union with the majority of seamen coming from southern states.

"I feel now that our educational program is sufficiently rooted in the minds of the great majority of our membership, that discrimination can be eliminated in the near future."

35c-1942

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Racial Ban Deplored By State Executive

APR 4 1942

Says Workers Exploited and Oppressed

Va

RICHMOND — The practices of certain union groups and even of U. S. Employment Service offices in barring the employment of competent workers in war industries because of race, color, or affiliation with an organization was severely criticized Tuesday by Governor Colgate W. Darden of Virginia.

Terming the practices as "exploitation and oppression," the governor declared he would "take whatever steps are possible to protect the rights of those involved."

The state executive, a former member of Congress and a World War No. 1 veteran, said Tuesday night that only persons who join labor unions were permitted to go to work at the Blackstone (Va.) Army cantonment project and that the U. S. Employment Service was "acting as a recruting office for the interested unions."

NOT PREFERRED SHOP

He based his statement on information received directly from Blackstone Tuesday afternoon.

He said that the employment arrangement did not constitute a preferential shop as was contemplated by the original contract, and charged that the federal employment service, by its action, was "oppressing and exploiting the very people it was designed to serve."

35c

APR 4 1942

PREJUDICE BANNED

In the statement by the governor, he said further: "The U. S. Employment Office is an agency supported by tax money and created to assist the unemployed in finding work without regard to color, race, or affiliation with any organization.

"Its use at Blackstone is an unconscionable prostitution of the purposes for which it was brought into being."

RESPONSIBILTIES RECOGNIZED

The "memorandum of understanding" made public by the Governor said at the outset that "the contractor, the Richmond Building Trades Council of A. F. of L. and the United States Employment Service of Virginia" recognized their responsibility of working closely together to provide an adequate supply of labor, and set forth a "referral procedure" and what each party would bé responsible for under the arrangement.

Under "referral procedures, the memorandum said that referrals to the contractor shall be made in the following order:

"(1) Union members, now in good standing, who reside in the locality of the project, shall be referred to the contractor by the unions.

APR 4 1942

"(2) Those qualified workers, residing in the locality of the project, who are not now members of the unions but who desire referral to the project, and elect to meet the condition of employment requiring union membership, shall next be referred by the employment service to the unions and then to the contractors.

"(3) Union members, now in good standing, who reside in Virginia but beyond the locality of the project, shall next be referred by the unions to the contractor.

VIRGINIA RESIDENTS

"(4) Those qualified workers, residing in Virginia but beyond the locality of the project, who are not now members of the union but who desire referral to the project and elect to meet the condition of employment requiring union membership, shall next be referred by the employment service to the unions and then to the contractor.

"(5) All qualified workers, both union and nonunion, who reside outside Virginia, shall next be referred by the employment service to the unions and then to the contractor."

Governor Darden said that the employment service takes applications of those seeking work and refers them not to the employer but to the unions, and that if an individual joins the union he gets a job and if he does not join he is not allowed to work "even though his services may be needed."

VIRGINIA

Along with his statement, the Governor made public a "memorandum of understanding" between the employment service and the Richmond Building Trades Council, dated February 4, setting forth the arrangements which the Governor said were being followed in hiring labor at the $25,000,000 project in Southside Virginia.

APR 4 1942

NO COMMENT

Frank A. Cavedo, director of the United States Employment Service in Virginia, declined any comment Tuesday night upon the Governor's statement.

The employment situation at the cantonment has been the subject of widespread discussion among state and federal officials, and the Virginia General Assembly adopted a resolution by Senator Robert K. Brock, whose district embraces the Blackstone area, condemning any regulation **or practice which makes membership** in a union a prerequisite to obtaining work at an Army camp construction project.

HILLMAN NOTE RECALLED

Sidney Hillman of the War Production Board wrote Representative A. Willis Roberston (D.,Va.) in February that a preferential shop arrangement at the camp was "in accord with long established labor-management practice in the building trades" and that if the union could not furnish all workers required, then the contractor could recruit his additional workers in any way he chose.

Criticism of conditions at the Blackstone project was first voiced early this year by Roanoke carpenters who sought employment at the site and who were told, they said, that union membership was a necessary prerequisite.

Further investigation revealed that membership in the A. F. of L. Carpenters' Union necessitated the payment of a $40 iniation fee.

The Army representative in charge of the project explained that the situation resulted from a "preferential shop" contract between the contracting firm and the A. F. of L. unions. He said the arrangement was similar to others which had been made at large cantonment projects undertaken in the national defense program and that it was designed to expedite the work.

MORTON INVESTIGATED

Governor Darden, shortly after his inauguration, assigned Thomas B. Morton, then State commissioner of labor and industry to go to the site and investigate conditions.

After conferring with the Army representative and others, Mr. Morton reported that the preferential shop agreement in effect was substantially as it had been described by the Army spokesman.

His purely factual report took no position on the question but it reiterated the assertion that similar regulations had been in effect at other cantonment projects in Virginia and that these projects had been completed ahead of schedule.

In a report submitted to the House of Delegates on March 5 pursuant to a House resolution "requiring certain information," John Hopkins Hall Jr., Mr. Morton's successor as labor commissioner, submitted the schedule of union iniation fees in effect at the project.

It showed that they ranged from $6 for membership in the laborers' union to $200 for membership in the elvator constructors' union.

TEXT OF STATEMENT

The Governor's statement said in part:

"Due to complaints arising out of the construction of the Army camp at Blackstone, I asked, late in February, for information regarding employment there.

"Preferential treatment meant, I was advised, that union men were to be first employed and when not available other workmen were to be taken without regard to their union affiliations.

DIFFERENCE FOUND

"I have learned today that an entirely different situation actually exists. One which, I believe, to be a violation of the construction contract and a denial of the right of employment to the people of Southside Virginia as well as of other sections.

"Strangely enough, it arises out of the operations and activities of the United States Employment Service which now is in charge of employment at Blackstone. The employment service receives the applications of those seeking work and then refers them not to the employer as would be expected, but to the appropriate unions.

UNION MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED

"If the individual joins the union he is given employment If he does not, he is not permitted to go to work, even though his services may be needed. His name is taken and he is told that he will be called later if there is any opening.

"This arrangement does not constitute a preferential shop as is contemplated by the original contract. Nor does the United States Employment Service in this way provide a means of employment for those out of work as it was intended to do and as it should do.

"It is, in fact, nothing but the Government agency acting as a recruiting office for the interested unions."

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Richmond School Janitors Ask Equalized Pay

OCT 28 1942

Maids Also Held Underpaid In Va. City System

OCT 28 1942

RICHMOND, Va.—(A N P)—Obviously impressed by the federal court decision granting Negro teachers pay parity with white teachers, Negro janitors in Richmond public schools Friday presented a petition to the city school board asking that they be placed on a salary equality with white workers in similar positions.

The board at its Friday night meeting turned this matter and the complaint that school maids were underpaid over to the committee on properties for consideration. The board also announced the appointment of George Peterson Jr., veteran of 12 years experience, as assistant principal at Armstrong High school to succeed a white man, Alvin F. Beale.

35c

The janitors' petition a copy of which was sent to the superintendent of schools and to the clerk of the school board was signed by Atty. Oliver W. Hill in behalf of the Richmond Public School Janitors' association.

OCT 28 1942

It asked that beginning with the November pay day, Negro custodial and janitorial workers of essentially equivalent qualifications be paid the same salaries as white workers and expressed the opinion that payment to Negro maids in the schools is "grossly inadequate for service and hours performed."

These maids are paid $36 monthly and do not work on Sundays. There are no white maids in the school system.

The Peterson appointment is in line with the school policy to name Negro executives in Negro schools when advisable as white ones are transferred or retired.

Alvin F. Beale. whom Peterson succeeds, was named principal of the white Springfield school to suceed Oscar L. Fary who has been appointed a navy lieutenant.

35c-1942

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Racial Ban Deplored By State Executive

APR 4 1942

Says Workers Exploited and Oppressed

Va

RICHMOND — The practices of certain union groups and even of U. S. Employment Service offices in barring the employment of competent workers in war industries because of race, color, or affiliation with an organization was severely criticized Tuesday by Governor Colgate W. Darden of Virginia.

Terming the practices as "exploitation and oppression," the governor declared he would "take whatever steps are possible to protect the rights of those involved."

The state executive, a former member of Congress and a World War No. 1 veteran, said Tuesday night that only persons who join labor unions were permitted to go to work at the Blackstone (Va.) Army cantonment project and that the U. S. Employment Service was "acting as a recruting office for the interested unions."

NOT PREFERRED SHOP

He based his statement on information received directly from Blackstone Tuesday afternoon.

He said that the employment arrangement did not constitute a preferential shop as was contemplated by the original contract, and charged that the federal employment service, by its action, was "oppressing and exploiting the very people it was designed to serve."

APR 4 1942

PREJUDICE BANNED

In the statement by the governor, he said further: "The U. S. Employment Office is an agency supported by tax money and created to assist the unemployed in finding work without regard to color, race, or affiliation with any organization.

"Its use at Blackstone is an unconscionable prostitution of the purposes for which it was brought into being."

RESPONSIBILTIES RECOGNIZED

The "memorandum of understanding" made public by the Governor said at the outset that "the contractor, the Richmond Building Trades Council of A. F. of L. and the United States Employment Service of Virginia" recognized their responsibility of working closely together to provide an adequate supply of labor, and set forth a "referral procedure" and what each party would be responsible for under the arrangement.

Under "referral procedures, the memorandum said that referrals to the contractor shall be made in the following order:

"(1) Union members, now in good standing, who reside in the locality of the project, shall be referred to the contractor by the unions.

APR 4 1942

"(2) Those qualified workers, residing in the locality of the project, who are not now members of the unions but who desire referral to the project, and elect to meet the condition of employment requiring union membership, shall next be referred by the employment service to the unions and then to the contractors.

"(3) Union members, now in good standing, who reside in Virginia but beyond the locality of the project, shall next be referred by the unions to the contractor.

VIRGINIA RESIDENTS

"(4) Those qualified workers, residing in Virginia but beyond the locality of the project, who are not now members of the union but who desire referral to the project and elect to meet the condition of employment requiring union membership, shall next be referred by the employment service to the unions and then to the contractor.

"(5) All qualified workers, both union and nonunion, who reside outside Virginia, shall next be referred by the employment service to the unions and then to the contractor."

Governor Darden said that the employment service takes applications of those seeking work and refers them not to the employer but to the unions, and that if an individual joins the union he gets a

VIRGINIA

job and if he does not join he is not allowed to work "even though his services may be needed."

Along with his statement, the Governor made public a "memorandum of understanding" between the employment service and the Richmond Building Trades Council, dated February 4, setting forth the arrangements which the Governor said were being followed in hiring labor at the $25,000,000 project in Southside Virginia.

NO COMMENT

APR 4 1942

Frank A. Cavedo, director of the United States Employment Service in Virginia, declined any comment Tuesday night upon the Governor's statement.

The employment situation at the cantonment has been the subject of widespread discussion among state and federal officials, and the Virginia General Assembly adopted a resolution by Senator Robert K. Brock, whose district embraces the Blackstone area, condemning any regulation **or practice which makes member**ship in a union a prerequisite to obtaining work at an Army camp construction project.

HILLMAN NOTE RECALLED

Sidney Hillman of the War Production Board wrote Representative A. Willis Roberston (D.,Va.) in February that a preferential shop arrangement at the camp was "in accord with long established labor-management practice in the building trades" and that if the union could not furnish all workers required, then the contractor could recruit his additional workers in any way he chose.

Criticism of conditions at the Blackstone project was first voiced early this year by Roanoke carpenters who sought employment at the site and who were told, they said, that union membership was a necessary prerequisite.

Further investigation revealed that membership in the A. F. of L. Carpenters' Union necessitated the payment of a $40 iniation fee.

The Army representative in charge of the project explained that the situation resulted from a "preferential shop" contract between the contracting firm and the A. F. of L. unions. He said the arrangement was similar to others which had been made at large cantonment projects undertaken in the national defense program and that it was designed to expedite the work.

MORTON INVESTIGATED

Governor Darden, shortly after his inauguration, assigned Thomas B. Morton, then State commissioner of labor and industry to go to the site and investigate conditions.

After conferring with the Army representative and others, Mr. Morton reported that the preferential shop agreement in effect was substantially as it had been described by the Army spokesman.

His purely factual report took no position on the question but it reiterated the assertion that similar regulations had been in effect at other cantonment projects in Virginia and that these projects had been completed ahead of schedule.

In a report submitted to the House of Delegates on March 5 pursuant to a House resolution "requiring certain information," John Hopkins Hall Jr., Mr. Morton's successor as labor commissioner, submitted the schedule of union iniation fees in effect at the project.

It showed that they ranged from $6 for membership in the laborers' union to $200 for membership in the elvator constructors' union.

TEXT OF STATEMENT

The Governor's statement said in part:

"Due to complaints arising out of the construction of the Army camp at Blackstone, I asked, late in February, for information regarding employment there.

"Preferential treatment meant, I was advised, that union men were to be first employed and when not available other workmen were to be taken without regard to their union affiliations.

DIFFERENCE FOUND

"I have learned today that an entirely different situation actually exists. One which, I believe, to be a violation of the construction contract and a denial of the right of employment to the people of Southside Virginia as well as of other sections.

"Strangely enough, it arises out of the operations and activities of the United States Employment Service which now is in charge of employment at Blackstone. The employment service receives the applications of those seeking work and then refers them not to the employer as would be expected, but to the appropriate unions.

UNION MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED

"If the individual joins the union he is given employment If he does not, he is not permitted to go to work, even though his services may be needed. His name is taken and he is told that he will be called later if there is any opening.

"This arrangement does not constitute a preferential shop as is contemplated by the original contract. Nor does the United States Employment Service in this way provide a means of employment for those out of work as it was intended to do and as it should do.

"It is, in fact, nothing but the Government agency acting as a recruiting office for the interested unions."

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Richmond School Janitors Ask Equalized Pay

OCT 28 1942

Maids Also Held Underpaid In Va. City System

OCT 28 1942

RICHMOND, Va.—(A N P)—Obviously impressed by the federal court decision granting Negro teachers pay parity with white teachers, Negro janitors in Richmond public schools Friday presented a petition to the city school board asking that they be placed on a salary equality with white workers in similar positions.

The board at its Friday night meeting turned this matter and the complaint that school maids were underpaid over to the committee on properties for consideration. The board also announced the appointment of George Peterson Jr., veteran of 12 years experience, as assistant principal at Armstrong High school to succeed a white man, Alvin F. Beale.

The janitors' petition a copy of which was sent to the superintendent of schools and to the clerk of the school board was signed by Atty. Oliver W. Hill in behalf of the Richmond Public School Janitors' association.

OCT 28 1942

It asked that beginning with the November pay day, Negro custodial and janitorial workers of essentially equivalent qualifications be paid the same salaries as white workers and expressed the opinion that payment to Negro maids in the schools is "grossly inadequate for service and hours performed."

These maids are paid $36 monthly and do not work on Sundays. There are no white maids in the school system.

The Peterson appointment is in line with the school policy to name Negro executives in Negro schools when advisable as white ones are transferred or retired.

Alvin F. Beale. whom Peterson succeeds, was named principal of the white Springfield school to suceed Oscar L. Fary who has been appointed a navy lieutenant.

Easley, S. C. Progress
December 24, 1942

WHO IS SOVEREIGN?

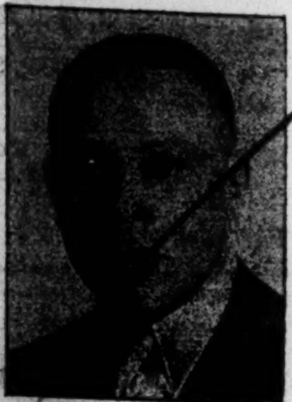
We don't understand. Probably dumb, but we just don't understand. We always have been told that the State—the Government—was the source of sovereignty. That the State was supreme and recognized no higher temporal power than defeat in war or voluntary surrender by constitutional compact with the people. Now, the War Productio nBoard, which is a very powerful branch of the State, discharges 130 Negro office employees for gross inefficiency. They were unable to correctly fill out the business questionnaires required by the bureaucrats.

But a CIO Union of Federal employees says "No, you can't discharge them because you are showing racial prejudice against Negroes. WPB—the Government—the State—surrenders and takes them back to see if it could not find some *easy* work for them to do. It is bitterly tragic that in time of war the government should be required to make work for the inefficient to pacify the agitators of the racial equality issue. When the State surrenders to minority pressure groups, freedom is endangered from within.

35c

From the same news report from Washington we note that one of the President's many, many boards has ordered that Negroes shall not be refused employment as street car and bus conductors and motormen in Washington. It is unwritten law in the South, it has been unwritten law in the North, and it has been unwritten law in Washington that an employer may choose white or black people to work for him. We are speaking of private employers and not the government. If the Capitol Traction Company can be told by the government that it must hire Negro conductors, whether it wants to or not, the Elizabeth Cotton Mills in South Carolina can be told that it must hire Negroes whether it wants to or not. John Smith, who runs a store in Easley, can be required to hire Negro clerks whether he wants to or not. We say this in no disparagement of the rights of Negroes under the Constitution and Law. We say it in defense of individual freedom in business relations. Southern Congressmen, be ever on guard! Be certain that he who approaches you under the guise of Democrat is not an enemy more deadly than the Radical Republican of old. Be sure he is our Jeffersonian brand.

35c-1942
The Northwest
Enterprise
Seattle, Washington



To The E[illegible]

JUL 3 - 1942

Wash

In the Northwest Enterprise, issue of June 19th, 1942, I note an article captioned, NO BARS AT BOEINGS. The next paragraph of the article, however, modifies the statement by saying that the bars have been lowered, that race men and women may now apply for work at Boeing's at their employment office, 2nd and Union, that a birth certificate will be their passport, and likewise naming several Negro women who are now employed there.

I write you to clarify the situation for the intelligence of the general public by saying that while the bars have been lowered, they are by no means down, and that the Negro women named in addition to several others who have since been employed, are not permitted to join the Aeronautical Mechanics Union No. 751, but are merely working on temporary permits at the cost of $3.50 per month. That several of these women have been bluntly informed by Mr. L. E. Poesnecker, financial secretary, whose office is at Lucille St. and Empire way that a definite rule of the union forbade the admission of Negroes to its membership, and that the union had no intention of changing this rule. Let us analyze this situation to determine what it means to ourselves as a group and to our nation in its greatest crisis.

First of all it means no security of job or certainty of relief. That being the last to be hired, we'll surely be the first to be fired. That Because we are Negroes, we must remain on the narrow ridge of economic survival, only partially connected with our nation's remedies, but dumb victims of its difficulties. It means that in spite of our President's executive order of no discrimination in defense industry, that this union will continue to discriminate even though it be at the cost of unity and morale, factors definitely essential to winning the war.

President Roosevelt in nearly all of his public statements has stressed the importance of four freedoms. Freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from want and freedom from fear. Of the first two, Negroes are fairly well covered. But being a working class group, we can never enjoy freedom from want until we are permitted to enjoy the result of gainful occupations: occupations requiring some skill, initiative, experience and special training. Freedom from want is as inseparably connected with freedom from fear as is the sense of taste and sense of of smell. We can never enjoy freedom from want and freedom from fear as long as the main wall of race prejudice is impenetrable.

Industrial Legislation the Remedy

Why not try through industrial legislation to put an end to this unwholesome situation? Why not martial our own strength together with that of our friends and sympathizers? All of the C.I.O. and many A.F. of [illegible]bor unions have spoken out unhesitatingly against racial discrimination. Hear what Mr. Ward Coley, General Business Agent of Building Service Union Local No. 6 has to say on the subject. I quote from THE UNION GUARDIAN, issue of July 1942:

JUL 3 - 1942

By Ward Coley

"There has been quite a lot of talk about racial discrimination in the last three or four months regarding the Negroes in defense industries. Some of our preachers could help out a lot in this city by allowing the Negroes to worship God in all the churches of Seattle. We ask the preachers also to do something about this very important problem. There is no excuse in any trade union that the Negro should not be admitted into any union affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. If a Negro is good enough to die to preserve the freedom of America, he certainly is entitled to the blessings of democracy, the right to work, to worship God anywhere and the right to be elected to represent his people. Let us all who believe in democracy fight to extend its blessings to all the people who are within the boundaries of America."

JUL 3 - 1942

In the states of New York, Massachusetts and Kansas, laws have been passed and are now being enforced that invalidates the function of any labor union that discriminates for reasons of race or color. The Kansas law, passed by a vote of 107-0 in the House and 31 to 0 in the Senate, was signed by Governor Payne H. Ratner April 4, 1941. The law means that laborers in the state of Kansas have a right to join any union for which they are qualified. If they are refused entrance or if they are not given equal rights and privileges of membership, solely because of race or color, they may take legal action against such union through their county attorney or the state attorney general. Either of three methods of redress are possible, according to the situation; quo warranto, mandamus, or injunction. The provision of the law excludes only such unions as are engaged in interstate commerce and therefore not under state regulation.

JUL 3 - 1942

Why not martial our forces, Mr. Editor, to determine what can be done about the situation here? Under the circumstances, without question we are justified. And though the failure of our effort may be deplored, failure to make the effort can hardly be sufficiently condemned.

35d-1942

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Deny Cleanup Of Servants In Old Dominion

Virginia Governor Denies Existence Of Rumored Clubs

RICHMOND, Va.,—(ANP)—Declaring that Negro leaders with whom he has worked have been "loyal and partiotic citizens," Gov. Darden said last week he has received no authentic reports of the prevalence of "Eleanor clubs" rumored to be flourishing in Virginia and other parts of the south. The Eleanor clubs, named for the President's wife, have as their objective, it is reported, "wholesale evacuation from southern kitchens of Negro servants."

SEP 28 1942

Also commenting on the situation, the Richmond Times-Dispatch said: "It isn't true at least there hasn't been a word of truth in the report of organization of such clubs in southern cities in which government agents have conducted their investigation."

35d

Gov. Darden declared he had read editorials in Norfolk papers and Richmond papers and a statement on the situation made by City Manager Charles B. Borland, of Norfolk, and said he could not imagine anything more unfortunate at this time than a move designed to divide the races. The governor further stated:

"Subversive activities must be watched wherever they appear. However, it is a mistake to assume that these activities have any special relationship to either color or race."

SEP 28 1942

Norfolk was jittery before Tuesday's blackout, City Manager Borland disclosed. After it happened and nothing occurred, however, he said, authoritative sources began to place blame for unsettled racial conditions on rumors and propaganda.

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

RUMOR ABOUT "ELEANOR CLUBS" IN DIXIE FALSE, SAYS "FIRST LADY"

SEP 11 1942

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10—(ANP)—Dixie's attempt to smear Mrs. Roosevelt because of her appearance at the A. M. E. meeting in North Carolina came a cropper when the rumor-bred "Eleanor Clubs," reported to have been organized throughout the South by housemaids and domestics, were reported as non-existent.

35d

Declaring the clubs had as their slogan, "Not a Maid in the Kitchen by Christmas," the purpose of the clubs was to secure employment for Negro women in defense plants, it is reported.

SEP 11 1942

Mrs. Roosevelt in a statement to the press declared that an investigation proved there was no basis for the rumored clubs, and that she had been unable to obtain a list, record or name of anyone enrolled in the mythical clubs, which bear her name without her permission.

SEP 11 1942

Because of the low pay scale for domestics in the South, Mrs. Roosevelt said she thought domestics were leaving private employment to go into industry.

She cited the Eleanor clubs as an example of "rumors used to bring about situations that don't exist." Although colored women are beginning to receive employment in defense industry in the South, and "signs point" to greater employment of them, Mrs. Roosevelt told her press conference she saw no reason why an issue should be made of facts commonly known.

Great stress was placed upon the formation of these clubs by some highly imaginative writers who saw in this an opportunity to embarrass the First Lady because she had been advised, it is reported, not to come to the North Carolina meeting. In face of this advice, Mrs. Roosevelt attended the conference, made a speech and was entertained by a group of whites in the town.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

'Eleanor' Club Rumor Scotched By Mrs. FDR

SEP 6 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—Dixie's attempt to smear Mrs. Roosevelt because of her appearance at the AME meeting in North Carolina came a cropper when the rumor-bred "Eleanor Clubs," reported to have been organized throughout the south by housemaids and domestics, were reported as non-existent.

SEP 6 1942

Declaring the clubs had as their slogan, "Not a Maid in the Kitchen by Christmas," the purpose of the clubs was to secure employment for Negro women in defense plants, it is reported.

35d

Mrs. Roosevelt in a statement to the press declared that an investigation proved there was no basis for the rumored clubs, and that she had been unable to obtain a list, or name anyone enrolled in the mythical clubs, which bears her name without her permission.

Because of the low pay scale for domestics in the South, Mrs Roosevelt said she thought domestics were leaving private employment to go into industry.

She cited the Eleanor clubs as an example of "rumors used to bring about situations that don't exist." Although colored women are beginning to receive employment in defense industry in the South, and "sings point" to greater employment of them, Mrs. Roosevelt told her press conference she saw no reason why an issue should be made of facts commonly known.

Great stress was placed upon the formation of these clubs by some highly imaginative writers who saw in this an opportunity to embarrass the First Lady because she had been advised, it is reported, not to come to the North Carolina meeting. In face of this advice, Mrs. Roosevelt attended the conference, made a speech and was entertained by a group of whites in the town.

SEP

▼ ***Negro women all over the country are forming Eleanor Roosevelt clubs and demanding high wages and short hours. What will the average working woman do when servants demand almost as much wages as she makes?*** Ladie's Home Journal

35d

The average working woman does not as a rule have servants. I did not know that Negro women were forming Eleanor Roosevelt clubs. I would regret it exceedingly, because I think, instead of forming clubs of that kind, they should enter a union and make their household work a profession. They should then receive adequate wages and live up to the same standards as other people engaged in domestic work. Philadelphia, Pa.

October, 1942.

Philadelphia, Pa.

Domestic work in the past, particularly in the case of Negro women, has been in certain parts of the country a very low-paid occupation, and the standards of work have very often been low. The two should change together. No one should be asked to work in other people's homes for the three to five dollars a week which in some places has been the prevailing wage. No person engaging domestic workers should have to put up with the kind of work which some people, both white and colored, do. For this work people should be trained and then, very often, one hour's work would be worth five or six by an unskilled worker. Ladie's Home Journal

October, 1942

35d

I do think that a union of domestic workers must have flexible rules, since every household has its own particular needs. Certain standards undoubtedly could be set up, however, and I think employers probably need education as much as the employees in many cases. I have worked on committees for many years, which have been concerned not only with the wages and hours of domestic employees, but also with the standards of work in the homes. I think the consensus in most of these groups has been that education is needed by the employer as well as by the employee. Oct., 1942.

35d

Guardian Angel To Star

B'ham Age Herald Sept 17/42

B'ham Age-Herald Sept 17

Edith Kemp and "Her" Bette Davis

BY ROBBIN COONS

HOLLYWOOD—(Wide World)—There's a select circle of off-stage celebrities out here, some of its members as well known in Hollywood as the stars they serve. They're the personal maids—the "dark jewels" of Hollywood.

If no man is a hero to his valet. the same cannot be said for the glamor girls and their attendants. The stars are heroines to their maids. They have to be, in greater or less degree, because a good maid is regarded as a rare treasure, and treasures can pick their own heroines. They're extremely particular about whom they serve.

One is Bette Davis' Edith Kemp—or "Kempy" as she's called. Besides helping her with wardrobe changes, straightening up her dressing room, serving lunch or tea, Kempy is Bette's buffer.

Job Demands Diplomacy

"Heroine?" Kempy laughs. "She's my baby. She's my little girl. I just like to take care of her. She had another maid when I first saw her working. I asked the girl if she'd mind if I got her another job so I could work for Miss Bette. She was agreeable so I did and I've been with Miss Bette ever since."

Kempy has worked for other stars, among them Grace Moore and Peggy Hopkins Joyce. A graduate of Ohio's Wilberforce College and natively sharp besides, Kempy makes a career of polished diplomacy.

"You have to know when to step forward with Miss Bette," she says "and when to keep out of the way. If it's time to keep out of the way—boy, you'd better keep!"

Stars' maids usually show a possessive attitude towards their mistress, like Hazel Washington. When Hazel read reports of her Rosalind Russell's engagement to Fred Brisson, Hazel asked, "Miss Russell, we're not going to get married, are we?"

Rosalind Backs Hazel

Rosalind has backed Hazel in a leather goods shop, and the Russell maid is now Blanche, Williams—an old-timer who has served Hedy Lamaar, Greer Garson, Eleanor Powell, Jean Harlow as well as many silent screen stars.

Claudette Colbert's Winifred isn't around the sound stages so much lately. For years she was on the Colbert sets at all times, treating the star like a cross between a baby and a goddess and guarding her fiercely against anything Winifred considered an intrusion on the Colbert privacy. Then Winifred was married, and retired from service. Two months later her husband died suddenly, and for a while Winifred was too ill to work. But she's back with Claudette now, and the relationship is the same—except that now it's Claudette who protects Winifred from over-exertion.

THE MYTHICAL 'ELEANOR CLUBS'

Courier Journal
Louisville, Ky.

X

F.B.I. confirms Southern newspapers; there's no such organization of Negro domestic servants

SEP 24 1942

ON September 1, Mrs. Roosevelt was asked in her press conference if she knew anything about the "Eleanor Clubs," an organization of domestics allegedly set up to disrupt all domestic services. Mrs. Roosevelt replied that she knew nothing about them other than that, as she said, "Government investigation into rumors has proven that no such organization of Negro domestics exists except in the imagination of rumor mongers."

In a statement issued on Tuesday, the Federal Bureau of Investigation said that an inquiry by F.B.I. men had failed to find any evidence of such clubs. Before the F.B.I. released its report, three Southern newspapers had made their own investigations. Below are excerpts from their editorials reporting the results of their investigation.

SEP 24 1942

IN AN editorial headed "The 'Eleanor Club' Myth," the Richmond Times-Dispatch said:

"If these rumors are not actually being started by fifth columnists, enemy agents must be eager to do everything they can to spread them for the outbreak of race riots in the United States at the present time could do untold harm to our war effort."

In the same state, the Norfolk-Virginian Pilot said:

SEP 24 1942

"Another veteran rumor—widely repeated among housewives—concerns the 'Eleanor Club.' Maybe you haven't heard it yet. You will. According to this rumor, Negro servants in white homes have organized or are preparing to organize, have joined or are preparing to join, a sisterhood called the 'Eleanor Club' or the 'Order of Eleanor,' for variously sinister purposes. According to one version, Eleanorites would insist on the right to enter the kitchen by way of the front door. According to other versions, they would join in refusing to wear servants' uniforms, or to cook late dinners, or to answer when called by their first names, or maybe to carry out the kitchen trash. The variants of the Eleanor Club menace have multiplied with the tale's repetition.

"If there exists such an organization as the 'Eleanor Club,' inquiries conducted by competent investigators, including some very responsible Negro leaders, have failed to find any trace of it. And if a trace of such a club should be found, it would suggest not a spontaneous movement among Negro domestics to force a radical revision of the relationship between themselves and their employers, but a scattered infection due to another kind of germ planted by enemies of our internal peace. Stuck away in the woodwork of our society are not only alien lice who would like to infect and poison the relationship between the two races, but also domestic haters of Roosevelt's social and economic philosophy and that of his wife, who would not be above supplying some free paste for the Eleanor Club's Rooseveltian label.

"It is the belief of City Manager Borland that these rumors are planted and propagated by enemies of our domestic peace. Pending a better explanation of the repetitive pattern and timing of these rumors, that is the Virginian-Pilot's belief also."

SEP 24 1942

THE CHARLESTOWN NEWS AND COURIER of Charleston, S. C., long regarded as the outstanding champion of the "white supremacy" viewpoint, made its investigation into the Eleanor Club myth. The News and Courier said:

"The News and Courier has been attempting to verify rumors, which every housewife has heard, about the 'Eleanor Club' for Negro house servants. There was the case of the proprietor of an inn, whose servants demanded unreasonable conditions. The innkeeper discharged all the servants and closed the dining-room.

"Questioned about it, the lady said she had closed her dining-room, but not because of the 'Eleanor Club.' She knew another family, however, who had trouble with a servant because of the club. Inquiry was made of this family, but the reply was an indignant 'no.' So it went with three other housewives, each of whom had been named as postively having experienced difficulty with a servant on account of the 'Eleanor Club.' In no case was there a member of the club.

"In Norfolk, in Richmond, in Raleigh the same rumors have been spread, but every time a person's name has been mentioned, a simple question has destroyed the rumor. Usually nobody's name is mentioned. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, which has done some good jobs of sleuthing, has been unable to turn up a member of the 'Eleanor Club,' and thinks the whole thing is a myth. After conducting its own small investigation, the News and Courier agrees. The 'Eleanor Club' is a myth."

First Lady Slandered By Negro-Baiters

Daily Worker
N.Y., N.Y.

SEP 14 1942

By Eric Webber

The 'White Supremacy" mob has reached into the White House to slander the Government and weaken the unity of the nation's war effort.

Word of this newest plot was brought north yesterday by an organizer of the State, County and Municipal Workers, CIO.

The plot gets its take-off on a rumor started by "White Supremacy" circles in the deep south. It goes to the effect that the President's wife had attended secret meetings to address Negro domestic workers, urging them to armed rebellion.

SEP 14 1942

Word of this fantasy has been picked up by every Talmadge and Horace Wilkinson stooge. It is being turned into an alibi for new outbreaks of brutality against the Negro people and sabotage of war work in the South.

The domestic workers, supposedly forming an organization called "Daughters of Eleanor," were alleged to have planned assassination of their employers with ice-picks.

Every liberal and friend of the administration in the south was accused of participating in this "plot" by newspapers controlled by the labor-baiting, Roosevelt hating clique.

Frank P. Graham, president of the University of North Carolina was implicated along with a number of other outstanding progressives.

This reporter called Graham to find out what steps were being taken to expose the source of the rumor.

SEP 14 1942

He indicated that it had started in the "lower south" and worked its way up to Carolina.

"It is being used by fascist people down here to start a lot of trouble," he said, "and as for the 'Daughters of Eleanor,' well that organization doesn't exist. A lot of people tried to track it down. And it's nowhere to be found."

35d-1942
Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

ONE WORD MORE

By RALPH McGILL

OCT 10 1942

ELEANOR CLUBS I finally am getting around to some of the mail which piled up during the busy month of August.

A number of letters had to do with the gossip about Eleanor clubs, those mostly mythical clubs in which Negro domestic servants were supposed to have organized in the name of the wife of the President of the United States.

One such letter included a clipping from the Moultrie Observer, in which that newspaper commented on the FBI report to the effect there was no general organization of such clubs. The Moultrie Observer said:

"It will doubtless be a disappointment to a great many to learn that there are no Eleanor clubs in the south ~~among~~ the Negroes. That was a juicy morsel. What a topic for conversation it was! Analyze it and you will find it contains all the elements that go to make up a good bridge game conversation. In the first place, it was an opportunity to make a thrust at the Roosevelts. With a lot of people, that is the most desirable thing in conversation. Something new that can be said against the Roosevelts and especially Mrs. Roosevelt. In the second place, it brought in the race question. For a time it looked as if discussion of the race question was passing out. We remember the days of the ''fo-day clubs.' The gossip-mongers had Negro ''fo-day clubs' in almost every community in the south. As we remember it, there was never any evidence that even one actually existed."

OCT 10 1942

That is a sane and sensible statement of fact. It is time we all quit listening to whispered fakes and it also is time we had the good sense to recognize that such reports probably are started by enemy agents who wish to disturb our domestic peace.

ONE SUCH CLUB I did hear of one such club. The FBI overlooked it. A gentleman from south Georgia, who is a writer of books, was in town last week. We were talking during lunch.

"I don't know if they call it the 'Eleanor club' in my town," he said, "but they have got a club. Our cook told my wife about it and we are cheering for the club. So is almost everyone in town.

"The cooks and maids got together to talk over what sort of people they worked for. The way our cook told it, they asked who was mean and who yelled at them and who bawled them out for no reason. The net result was," he said, "that the wife of the town's No. 3 big shot can't get any help.

"It developed at the meeting that she was cockeyed almost every afternoon from too many cocktails or drams, and that she was mean and screamed things. The word got passed around. It also developed she was paying $4 per week. No one will work for her. She simply can't get any help. The whole town is glad of it because the whole town has known for a long time just what the cooks found out. We all think it is swell.

"I don't know," he said, "if this is an Eleanor club, but if it is it is a splendid idea and should have been thought of before."

The problem of domestic help will grow greater. That many of them have been exploited is true. There is a personal relationship in the work which makes it next to impossible to set any hard-and-fixed time to arrive and time to depart. If they do find it possible to work for people who are not rude, it is but natural they would refuse to work for those who are.

OCT 10 1942

MOULTRIE OBSERVER I think the Moultrie Observer was correct in its analysis.

Here and there, in New York or Detroit, a few radicals may have formed some sort of organization in which deluded domestic help is being exploited for the purpose of the organizers.

The FBI found no such organizations over the nation.

The Observer was right when its editor said it was just another way to strike at the Roosevelts. It provided juicy bridge-game gossip. It was cleverly done. It brought about some confusion and concern. One doesn't hear so much about the clubs anymore. The fake campaign of gossip has about run its course.

Another one will come along.

Atlanta ought to recall the report of a year ago, persistent for weeks, that domestic help was going to strike all over the city. That, too, was a fake and ran its course.

We are a gullible people.

We seem to take any sort of gossip to our hearts without ever examining it for truth or danger.

Just the other day I had a man tell me, in all seriousness, that he had it on authority from Washington, that Roosevelt would never allow another election during the war. Let me see. We heard that if he won his second term there would never be another election. They said the same thing about Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson.

The Richmond Times Dispatch, in reporting that it found no Eleanor clubs, had something to say which applies to all such rumors.

"We must nail these rumors for they spread bigger and bigger and more dangerous lies, including reports of plots and counterplots. If we can't kill them when they arise they work overtime and with greater effectiveness—for Hitler."

OCT 10 1942

The American Negro is patriotic and is helping to win the war.

There also will be an election in 1944.

What else have you heard?

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
September 24, 1942

The "Elean

The Federal Bure ion has investigated rep so-called "Eleanor Clubs ging up over the country. ound no evidence to suppor eports.

An "Eleanor Club," according to rumors, was formed by Negro servants. The object was to secure certain conditions of employment. Some of the rumors were ridiculous and obviously had been embroidered with each repetition. Servants, the rumors went, were going to insist on being permitted to enter the places of their employment through the front door. No garbage was to be taken out by servants. Servants were not to be addressed by their first names . . . And so on.

Mrs. Roosevelt told a press conference that reports which had reached her told of rumors of such clubs being formed in Alabama, Mississippi North Carolina and Florida.

Well, this is Alabama, and we have heard of no such clubs around here.

The FBI has found no evidence. This is another rumor which has been originated by some who, apparently, are seeking to foment dissatisfaction and even alarm.

Persons who spread such idle tales are guilty of injuring the effort of this nation. Everyone should be on guard as to what he says at this time. The spreading of untrue stories about internal dissatisfactions is an act of assistance to our enemies.

Anniston, Ala. Star
September 29, 1942

No "Eleanor Clubs"

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, undoubtedly the greatest aggregation of sleuths in the world today, has just put the clincher to what The Anniston Star and other Southern newspapers have long contended—that there was no such organization in the South as "Eleanor Clubs."

For those not familiar with this subject, we will go back a few months. For some time there have been rumors cropping up all over the South, as well as other parts of the nation, that Southern Negroes were banding together for the purpose supposedly of walking out on their jobs, "not a cook in the kitchen by Christmas," so to speak.

The Star, in company with practcially every other newspaper in the South contended that such rumors were the work of agitators seeking to stir racial trouble in the South. The FBI, however, went even further, attempted to track down the sources of these rumors, and learn if there were any truth in them. The federal sleuths found that no organization ever existed, except in the mind of the rumor mongers.

Three leading newspapers of the South made their own investigations, and also learned that "Eleanor Clubs" existed only by rumors. These papers were The Louisville (Ky.) Courier Journal, The Charleston (S. C.) News and Courier and The Richmond (V.) Times-Dispatch. The press investigation's result was made known before the FBI completed its report, so the Federal Bureau's findings were a timely confirmation of the newspapers' own report.

Never putting any stock in these rumors in the first place, The Star, however, is gratified to know that they have been proved false by so impartial an investigating body as the Federal Bureau of Investigation. We felt that we knew the Southern Negro well enough to know that he would not organize a concerted effort to disrupt domestic service in Southern homes, and thereby impede the war effort to that extent. The Southern Negro is just as patriotic as any citizen of this great nation, and strife between his race and the whites is furtherest from his mind.

Birmingham. Ala. News
September 24, 1942

This Evening

NOTHING TO IT

If you are among those who have been disturbed by reports of the existence of "Eleanor Clubs," supposedly composed of Negro woman militantly dedicated to the promotion of racial rights and to the protection of Mrs. Roosevelt, you can forget it. The FBI has investigated, and found no trace of such an organization. Mrs. Roosevelt's secretary has questioned servants in the White House, and at the Roosevelt homes in Hyde Park and New York City, without coming across a single member. That is particularly significant in view of the fact that Negro maids and cooks were allegedly bound together in such a movement. They were ready to strike, we were told, whenever their feelings as Negroes were hurt, or whenever Mrs. Roosvelt's name was taken in vain.

Well, it's all a canard, apparently, and Southerners who have been spreading it are now under an obligation, not merely to rid themselves of the silly idea, but also to pass the word along that there is nothing to it. Even those who have other reasons for deploring Mrs. Roosevelt's attitude on the Negro problem should make sure that they will not repeat at least this fabrication. Indeed, if they seriously undertook to trace to their origin other reports of Mrs. Roosevelt's doings in connection with the race question, they would probably learn that prejudice and venom have been at work in utter disregard of the truth.

Mrs. Roosevelt is the wife of the President of the United States. As such, and in her own character as a good and brave woman, she is bound to take positions which can scarcely have the approval of every Tom, Dick and Harry, male and female. But the disposition in quarters hostile to the president has been to try to knife him by attributing all sorts of things to the president's wife. It is a nasty maneuver. For the sake of decency, the time has certainly come to greet that kind of indirection with the contempt which it deserves.

Birmingham, Ala. News
August 14, 1942

Servants Will Meet

Negro domestic servants of the city have been asked to attend a special mass meeting at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, at the 32nd Street Baptist Church, at which time plans will be made for a school of specialized training in household management, to be opened this Fall. The meeting is sponsored by the Colored Domestic Servants Security Organization, composed of cooks, butlers, chauffeurs, yardmen and washerwomen. M. M. Curry, president, will preside.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Domestics Quit; Housewives Irked

Dec. 6, 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—Graver and graver grows the situation regarding domestic workers, throughout the south, where Negroes have been the chief supply, the sudden death of workers is more keenly felt than anywhere else. The opening of many industries where pay and working conditions and working hours are considerably better than in the domestic field has taken away the supply of colored servants. And now many who in the past had a number of underpaid colored servants are forced to do their own domestic work and take care of household duties.

This, plus the suddent cessation of immigration of foreign labor, has brought about a situation which to the southerners is unbearable.

As a result the various agencies of the government which are supposed to "adjust" situations, are floored with letters of complaint tinged with bitterness and malice.

One agency received a letter, which incidentally, was turned over to a colored division head for reply, in which the complaint said "Abraham Lincoln lived too long."

Other implications of a similar nature were contained in the opistle, particular stress being laid on the fact that white men were being taken into the army and Ne-ing the Naples docks.

The big American bombing planes, making a flight of several hundred miles across the Mediterranean, struck Naples at dusk Friday and caught Italians by surprise.

Dec. 6, 1942

The American planes had trailed Italian aircraft across the Mediterranean and the Italians apparently were not aware of the approach of the United States raiders until the attack war launched.

The Americans centered their attack on the Porta Dimassa quay, a communique revealed, and upon ships moored alongside.

"Numerous hits were scored among the ships," the communique said, "resulting in explosions and huge fires.

"Other hits were made on the Angiono Mole, starting fires and sending up great clouds of gray and black smoke."

Direct hits were scored on a battleship in the harbor, the communique said, as well as on docks and railroad facilities.

The American planes encountered no Italian fighters due to the surprise of the attack, but said they met "considerable inaccurate antiaircraft fire." All of the bombers returned safely.

35d - 1942
Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

THE ELEANOR CLUBS

The latest propaganda circulated and probably the most vicious among Negroes is that domestic workers over the South are forming unions under the name of Eleanor Clubs which conveys the impression that Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt is back of the movement to get "all domestic workers out of the kitchen by Christmas!"

SEP 19 1942

Recently the Workers' Aid Club, 419 1-2 Milam Street, which has been furnishing colored help for about fifteen years, received several calls wanting to know if it was an Eleanor Club.

Only last week the Labor News received a release from Elmer Davis, in charge of War Information, announcing that Mrs. Roosevelt denies connection with any such movement.

It appears to us that connecting Mrs. Roosevelt with the movement is either a smear on the First Lady because of her sympathetic attitude toward Negroes and workers in general, in order to create a dissension in the South against the White House, or it can be that labor organizers are proponents of the union movement who believe Negro domestic workers and the general public will fall for the union movement.

There is a general movement rapidly spreading over the country to organize domestic workers. It is gaining momentum in nearly every large city in the South as work and wages increase for men. Naturally, as men get more money as heads of their families, the women become more independent and believe they can stand strikes or layoffs. The movement in some sections, is sponsored by the AFL and in other sections, it is sponsored by the CIO. Sometime ago attempt was made to organize maids and cooks at Little Rock and at Memphis. The venture did not meet with success, however, because of the Communistic charges against the CIO and that the union was making trouble among Negroes. Negro leaders took a hand in the movement and argued against it.

SEP 19 1942

The Labor News is opposed to some of the wages and working conditions which workers are subjected to. We realize that some of the worse exploiters of labor are found among employers of domestic help. The situation is not only true with Negro workers, but the complaint is the same with all races who do this type of work. It seems harder for Negroes in the South because about 70 percent of domestic work is done by them. Long hours and low wages are many of the complaints filed by workers.

While we are very much in sympathy with these conditions, we believe the Negro should be very cautious in lining up with union movements in an effort to improve their conditions.

Here are some of the facts we must face in the attempt to unionize domestic labor: First, while the Wagner Labor Law guarantees the worker the right to bargain collectively, it does not apply to domestic workers. If a worker has any grievances which he cannot settle with his employer, he has no choice but to quit his job. He has no protection now by Federal or state laws. It is almost impossible to form a union strong enough to change the conditions, it matters not if it is affiliated with the all powerful unions, AFL or CIO.

SEP 19 1942

The strike method is impractical because the employer can close his house or do his own work for a while. The picket line, the union's most powerful weapon, can not be used as picketting can not be carried on against private homes. The home is a man's castle and the government certainly protects it.

The next factor that will hamper a domestic union's success is the lack of uniformity of service required by employers. The work is almost as different as there are homes. Where a servant maybe called an A-1 servant in one home, he may be considered incompetent by the next door neighbor. Next, there is no uniformity of training among help. In fact, over 90 percent of domestic workers who go on jobs have no special training for the work. What they have learned has been through the trial and error method, which is most expensive to employers. There can not be any uniform scale of wages because of the different types of employers.

SEP 19 1942

We believe the right approach to the situation is through an educational method. That is, the domestic work must be dignified. Since the majority of the work in the South is done by Negroes the intelligentsia of the race must become interested in the problem of domestic workers. They should work in conjunction with the employers in securing efficient help. The workers must be encouraged to prepare for domestic work as in any other occupation.

There should be sufficient public sentiment made to arouse employers to pay domestic workers according to their skill and ability.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

The "Eleanor" Rumor

SEP 24 1942

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has investigated reports that many so-called "Eleanor Clubs" were springing up over the country. The FBI found no evidence to support these reports.

An "Eleanor Club," according to rumors, was formed by Negro servants. The object was to secure certain conditions of employment. Some of the rumors were ridiculous and obviously had been embroidered with each repetition. Servants, the rumors went, were going to insist on being permitted to enter the places of their employment through the front door. No garbage was to be taken out by servants. Servants were not to be addressed by their first names . . . And so on.

-SEP 24 1942

Mrs. Roosevelt told a press conference that reports which had reached her told of rumors of such clubs being formed in Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina and Florida.

Well, this is Alabama, and we have heard of no such clubs around here.

The FBI has found no evidence. This is another rumor which has been originated by some who, apparently, are seeking to foment dissatisfaction and even alarm.

SEP 24 1942

Persons who spread such idle tales are guilty of injuring the effort of this nation. Everyone should be on guard as to what he says at this time. The spreading of untrue stories about internal dissatisfactions is an act of assistance to our enemies.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

No Eleanor Clubs Have Been Found, First Lady Says

SEP 23 1942

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22—(AP)—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt reported Tuesday that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had failed to find any "Eleanor Clubs," reportedly being organized among Negro servants and being named for the First Lady.

Mrs. Roosevelt told her press conference that reports were that such organizations were being organized in Mississippi, North Carolina, Alabama and Florida, but that the FBI said its inquiry had been negative in producing any definite evidence.

SEP 23 1942

The president's wife said she had received many letters — even telephone calls—telling her of such so-called clubs, but that no one thus far, when asked to give the definite name of a club member or the meeting place of such a club, had been able to do so.

The FBI investigation followed reports such clubs were being organized for several purposes, including improvement of Negro welfare, with such slogans as "All Negroes out of the kitchen by Christmas." One of the reports was that members had agreed to quit their jobs if, for example, they are serving dinner and derogatory words are spoken by the family or guests about the Roosevelts.

While Mrs. Roosevelt was out of the room to answer a call her secretary, Miss Malvina Thompson, said she, Miss Thompson, had personally asked Negro maids employed at the White House and by the Roosevelts at New York and Hyde Park and had inquired among Negro leaders and educators without finding one belonging to such a club.

SEP 23 1942

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.

F.B.I. Can't Find 'Eleanor Clubs,' First Lady Says

SEP 23 1942

Washington, Sept. 22 (AP)—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt reported today that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had failed to find any "Eleanor Clubs," reportedly being organized among Negro servants and named for the First Lady.

SEP 23 1942

Mrs. Roosevelt told her press conference that reports were that such organizations were being organized in Mississippi, North Carolina, Alabama and Florida, but that the F.B.I. said its inquiry produced no definite evidence.

The investigation followed reports clubs were being organized for several purposes, including improvement of Negro welfare, with such slogans as "All Negroes out of the kitchen by Christmas." One report was that members agreed to quit their jobs if, for example, they are serving dinner and derogatory words are spoken by family or guests about the Roosevelts.

SEP 23 1942

MY DAY

First Lady impressed by 'Youth City,' project for Negroes in Philadelphia

Courier Journal
Louisville, Ky.

SEP 24 1942

By Eleanor Roosevelt.

WASHINGTON—On the train from New York City to Philadelphia Monday, I had the pleasant experience of meeting Mr. Eddie Dowling, who was opening one of his shows there Monday night. He rescued me by carrying my bag off the train, for I was surrounded by some highly enthusiastic boys on their way back to their various camps. They can never see why one hasn't the time to give an autograph to everyone in the group, but unfortunately trains do not wait while you sign your name.

At 6 o'clock I reached "Youth City" and was at once taken for a tour of the Negro slums. As in almost every other big city, the low income group, in which a great many Negroes find themselves in Philadelphia, suffer from poor housing. It was a joy to see the new housing built on eight city blocks which once were slums.

SEP 24 1942

Today they are occupied by many of the same people and are clean and well kept. When they have time to do some landscaping, the whole project will be very attractive. Afterwards we returned to "Youth City," an old night club now turned into a community center. Most of the work there is done by the boys themselves.

SEP 24 1942

THIS GROUP ELECTS a mayor and all the city officials, including judge and police, in which the same way that Father Flanagan organizes his Boys' Town. The real police co-operate with them. When juvenile delinquents are found in the area, they are brought in to be judged by their own judges. Much of the work in "Youth City" has been done by youngsters working out their sentences. The situation as regards juvenile crimes among boys and girls in the neighborhood, both colored and white, has vastly improved.

The community house staff organizes basketball teams, table tennis games, etc.; in fact, they keep the young people busy out of school hours and after work hours. In addition, these boys and girls are learning to be good citizens instead of destructive hoodlums.

MANY OF THE BOYS are now in the services, but they write back to their director, Mr. Samuel Evans, who has been apparently the strongest influence in making this a valuable community project. None of the staff working in "Youth City" receives a salary. They earn their living elsewhere, but they give much of their time to the work.

Miss Ella Gowan Hood met me with Mr. Evans. Mr. Jack Kelly presided at the dinner. Judge Curtis Bok and Mrs. Bok were there, and many other Philadelphia acquaintances of mine who have taken a keen interest in this work. I caught the evening plane back to Washington and was home in time to do the day's mail before going to bed.

Newsweek
Dayton, Ohio

Where's Eleanor?

Everyone down South talks about the Eleanor Clubs, but so far no one has been found who will admit he ever saw one or a member of one. Up to last week end, they were still a minor mystery.

OCT 19 1942

Rumors about the Eleanor Clubs are many—that they are organized by Negro maids and cooks who walk out in the middle of the dinner if any white person at the table criticizes the President or Mrs. Roosevelt; that the motto is "a white woman in every kitchen by Christmas, and every domestic in a government job"; and that the clubs are the Negro's secret answer to the Ku Klux Klan.

OCT 19 1942

Groups as well as individuals have tried to find an Eleanor (either club or member) and failed—including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Office of War Information, and a dozen Southern newspapers. They all drew blanks.

By now, everybody who is anybody (including Eleanor Roosevelt) has publicly stated that the whole thing is silly. True, the CIO is organizing household help; prices are higher and domestics say they need more money. But Eleanor Clubs? Like the little man, they just weren't there.

F.B.I. Fails To Find Negro 'Eleanor Clubs'

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.

SEP 24 1942

By the Associated Press.

Washington, Sept. 23 — Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt reports that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has failed to find any "Eleanor Clubs," reportedly being organized among Negro servants and named for the First Lady.

An editorial and an article on this subject are on today's editorial page.

SEP 24 1942

Mrs. Roosevelt said that reports were that such organizations were being organized in Mississippi, North Carolina, Alabama and Florida, but that the F.B.I. said its inquiry produced no definite evidence.

The investigation followed reports clubs were being organized for several purposes, including improvement of Negro welfare, with such slogans as "All Negroes out of the kitchen by Christmas." One report was that members agreed to quit their jobs if, for example, they are serving dinner and derogatory words are spoken by family or guests about the Roosevelts.

Anniston, Ala. Star
September 2, 1942

No "Eleanor Clubs"

Throughout the Southern States in the last several months, there have been rumors of "Eleanor Clubs" being formed by Negro domestics with thhe alleged intention of "not a maid in the kitchen by Christmas." Happily, these rumors have been proved unfounded, thus removing another possible cause of friction between the races.

Here in Anniston, domestic help is hard to obtain, but this situation is not caused by organization of Negro maids, nurses, cooks, etc., but is due merely to economic conditions. Many Negroes are obtaining work in defense industries and this naturally results in a shortage of domestic help, but there is not one iota of evidence that "Eleanor Clubs" are being formed.

The "Eleanor" title comes from the name of the wife of President Roosevelt, who has interested herself in the Negroes and their welfare. Mrs. Roosevelt told her press conference yesterday that she had attempted to trace down the sources of these "Eleanor Club" rumors, and that federal agencies had also been active in this work, but that no evidence had been unearthed that any such organizations existed. Such rumors evidently are the work of enemies boring from within, whose activities we discussed in these columns only last week.

Newsweek
Dayton, Ohio

Union for Domestics

OCT 19 1942

A new labor union for household help was under way in Baltimore this week, after a three-month organizing drive that netted 300 Negro cooks, maids, and others as members. The organizer (under CIO auspices) and business manager of the new United Domestic Workers Union was Mrs. Jean Collier Brown, white author, lecturer, and former researcher in the information section of the Women's Bureau of the Labor Department in Washington. She predicted the Baltimore group would be just a forerunner of a CIO national movement to improve the lot of 2,000,000 houseworkers throughout the country. (The AFL already has domestic unions in New York, Pennsylvania, and California.)

The UDWU's aims are explicit—and simple: collective bargaining for domestics ("we never say 'servants'," Mrs. Brown explained). Its platform: a 48-hour week for full-time household employes at a standard wage of $14 a week; 35 cents an hour or $3 a day for part-time work (deducting 20 cents for each meal eaten on the job, with the worker paying her own carfare); and a flexible work day that permits the cook to finish the dishes on overtime, for instance, if she gets time off later to make up for it.

OCT 19 1942

Mrs. Brown, incidentally, is also a member of the executive committee of the National Council on Household Employment, a group promoting better wages and living standards for domestics through women's clubs. Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt is honorary chairman. When Mrs. Brown announced formation of her new union, she carefully pointed out that it had no connection with the South's mysterious Eleanor Clubs (see box, page 63), reportedly named for Mrs. Roosevelt. As a matter of fact, Mrs. Brown said she had investigated and as far as she knew they did not exist.

35d-1942
Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

Domestic Service Is on the Way Out

OCT 3 - 1942

War-time Housewives Are Having to Cook Their Own Meals, Dust Their Own Floors, and Exercise Their Own Dogs.

AN EDITORIAL

"What will the average working woman do when servants demand almost as much wages as she makes?"

This was the question asked Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt in the October Ladies' Home Journal, and the First Lady replied as follows: OCT 3 - 1942

"The average working woman does not, as a rule, have servants. . . . Servants should enter a union . . . receive adequate wages and live up to . . . standards. . . . No one should be asked to work for three to five dollars a week."

OCT 3 - 1942

We were not quite satisfied with the question and Mrs. Roosevelt's answer. We think the question might better be put—What are women going to do for servants during the war? The answer to that is: "They are going to do without servants."

8,000 Quit Servants' Jobs

They have already begun to do without them according to William B. Day, head of one of Baltimore's largest employment agencies. OCT 3 - 1942

Mr. Day estimates that there were 23,000 servants (cooks, maids, laundresses, gardeners, chauffeurs) employed in the city in 1941. Today, there are only 15,000.

OCT 3 - 1942

This time last year he was placing twenty servants a day. This number has decreased considerably, and one day last week he found only one applicant he could place, and he has 500 vacant jobs he can't fill.

Employment Office Changes Line

Mr. Day is a smart business man. He lived through World War I and he knew what war periods do to the servant business. So several months ago he changed his line. Now he is sending former domestics into laundries, hospitals, stores, taverns, soda fountains and schools, to take the places of white girls who have gotten better jobs.

The move of the colored servant into war factories has not been rapid yet, but there is the girl just out of high school who was earning $30 a month. Her war work job now pays $35 a week with overtime. This case is not exceptional. OCT 3 - 1942

Cooks and maids who used to work a seventy-hour week at 20 cents an hour, earn 63 cents an hour now in a small parts assembly plant and 42 cents an hour making gas masks for the government.

Ex-Servants Minding Own Homes

This is not all. Mr. Day looked up one hundred applicants he put into jobs last year. The one hundred were picked at random from his files. He found forty-eight of them not working at all, because their husbands are making enough to support them adequately and keep them at home.

Mr. Day found some of these husbands were getting well-kept homes, properly prepared meals and lunches for the first time in years, and younger women are using this opportunity to have children.

McNutt Says All Must Get Into War Work

There is still one other reason why the number of house servants is shrinking. Listen to Paul McNutt, chairman of the United States War Manpower Commission: OCT 3 - 1942

"If you are an average American and you are not in the war now, you'll be in it eventually, whether you be man or woman, rich or poor.

"Ahead of us are demands for labor that can never be entirely satisfied. Today, for every skilled tool designer available, fifty-one are needed. We need twenty-five times as many tool-makers as we have, seven times as many ship carpenters, twenty-two times as many marine machinists.

"The time may come when we shall need on the farms and in the factories and shipyards every able-bodied man and woman."

Present Army to Be Doubled

Mr. McNutt estimates that the United States will draft a fighting force of eight million men (already four million have been called), and for every man in the army, eighteen more will be called into war work at home.

OCT 3 - 1942

That means that we shall have 800,000 colored men in the army and navy and 14 million in war work at home.

We have only 8 million colored people between the ages of 14 and 60, so that we shall have a shortage of 6 million war workers at home.

Does anybody imagine that the 1½ million colored people now working in domestic service in the United States will be allowed to stay on their jobs as cooks, maids, and butlers, while we are short of war workers?

Rich Will Not Be Allowed to Keep Servants

We can't keep on taking men from farms for war industries. Nor can we draw them from mines, factories and construction work. OCT 3 - 1942

The chief classification in which we have millions of men and women in non-essential war work is domestic service, and servants will be the first to be reclassified for war work.

Families may be rich enough to hire servants, but they won't be allowed to because the government's need is greater.

Community kitchens and day nurseries have taken the place of servants in Europe, and Donald Nelson warned the American Legion last week that we are going to have to cut more deeply into our civilian economy than the British themselves have done yet—with the single exception of food.

British figures show 23 out of 33 million in registered war work, and the British work week averages fifty-six hours.

U.S. Will Be Short Fifty Million Workers

OCT 3 - 1942

McNutt's statement that an army of eight million men will require 144 million war workers at home has an additional significance for colored people.

There are only 130 million people in the United States, and only 80 million of them are available effectives. If, then, McNutt is right, we should soon have a shortage of 64 million war workers.

War industry will try to plug its gaps by using white women. Then it will reach down into the schools and pick up the 14-16-year-old white children.

It will try grabbing some of the seven million white agricultural workers and find itself so short of food that it will have to let the farms alone.

It will import Mexicans and South Americans, and discover it can't get enough of them. Then it will have to employ colored war workers, as much as it dislikes to do so. And we shall need to be ready.

Better Jobs with More Pay

Every domestic servant under 45, man or woman, should prepare to fight or to do war work. Six months' training in a vocational night school will make the change easy and pleasant, because those who are trained will move into better jobs with higher rates of pay.

OCT 3 - 1942

Some babies will be allowed to cry. Housewives in increasing numbers will have to cook their own meals, dust their own floors, and exercise their own dogs.

That is what is occurring in Europe today, and it

35d-1942
Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

OCT 3 - 1942

Domestic Service Is on the Way Out

War-time Housewives Are Having to Cook Their Own Meals, Dust Their Own Floors, and Exercise Their Own Dogs.

AN EDITORIAL

"What will the average working woman do when servants demand almost as much wages as she makes?"

This was the question asked Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt in the October Ladies' Home Journal, and the First Lady replied as follows:

"The average working woman does not, as a rule, have servants. . . . Servants should enter a union . . . receive adequate wages and live up to . . . standards. . . . No one should be asked to work for three to five dollars a week."

We were not quite satisfied with the question and Mrs. Roosevelt's answer. We think the question might better be put—What are women going to do for servants during the war? The answer to that is: "They are going to do without servants."

8,000 Quit Servants' Jobs

They have already begun to do without them according to William B. Day, head of one of Baltimore's largest employment agencies.

Mr. Day estimates that there were 23,000 servants (cooks, maids, laundresses, gardeners, chauffeurs) employed in the city in 1941. Today, there are only 15,000.

This time last year he was placing twenty servants a day. This number has decreased considerably, and one day last week he found only one applicant he could place, and he has 500 vacant jobs he can't fill.

Employment Office Changes Line

Mr. Day is a smart business man. He lived through World War I and he knew what war periods do to the servant business. So several months ago he changed his line. Now he is sending former domestics into laundries, hospitals, stores, taverns, soda fountains and schools, to take the places of white girls who have gotten better jobs.

The move of the colored servant into war factories has not been rapid yet, but there is the girl just out of high school who was earning $30 a month. Her war work job now pays $35 a week with overtime. This case is not exceptional.

Cooks and maids who used to work a seventy-hour week at 20 cents an hour, earn 63 cents an hour now in a small parts assembly plant and 42 cents an hour making gas masks for the government.

Ex-Servants Minding Own Homes

This is not all. Mr. Day looked up one hundred applicants he put into jobs last year. The one hundred were picked at random from his files. He found forty-eight of them not working at all, because their husbands are making enough to support them adequately and keep them at home.

Mr. Day found some of these husbands were getting well-kept homes, properly prepared meals and lunches for the first time in years, and younger women are using this opportunity to have children.

McNutt Says All Must Get Into War Work

There is still one other reason why the number of house servants is shrinking. Listen to Paul McNutt, chairman of the United States War Manpower Commission:

"If you are an average American and you are not in the war now, you'll be in it eventually, whether you be man or woman, rich or poor.

"Ahead of us are demands for labor that can never be entirely satisfied. Today, for every skilled tool designer available, fifty-one are needed. We need twenty-five times as many tool-makers as we have, seven times as many ship carpenters, twenty-two times as many marine machinists.

"The time may come when we shall need on the farms and in the factories and shipyards every able-bodied man and woman."

Present Army to Be Doubled

Mr. McNutt estimates that the United States will draft a fighting force of eight million men (already four million have been called), and for every man in the army, eighteen more will be called into war work at home.

That means that we shall have 800,000 colored men in the army and navy and 14 million in war work at home.

We have only 8 million colored people between the ages of 14 and 60, so that we shall have a shortage of 6 million war workers at home.

Does anybody imagine that the 1½ million colored people now working in domestic service in the United States will be allowed to stay on their jobs as cooks, maids, and butlers, while we are short of war workers?

Rich Will Not Be Allowed to Keep Servants

We can't keep on taking men from farms for war industries. Nor can we draw them from mines, factories and construction work.

The chief classification in which we have millions of men and women in non-essential war work is domestic service, and servants will be the first to be reclassified for war work.

Families may be rich enough to hire servants, but they won't be allowed to because the government's need is greater.

Community kitchens and day nurseries have taken the place of servants in Europe, and Donald Nelson warned the American Legion last week that we are going to have to cut more deeply into our civilian economy than the British themselves have done yet—with the single exception of food.

British figures show 23 out of 33 million in registered war work, and the British work week averages fifty-six hours.

U.S. Will Be Short Fifty Million Workers

McNutt's statement that an army of eight million men will require 144 million war workers at home has an additional significance for colored people.

There are only 130 million people in the United States, and only 80 million of them are available effectives. If, then, McNutt is right, we should soon have a shortage of 64 million war workers.

War industry will try to plug its gaps by using white women. Then it will reach down into the schools and pick up the 14-16-year-old white children.

It will try grabbing some of the seven million white agricultural workers and find itself so short of food that it will have to let the farms alone.

It will import Mexicans and South Americans, and discover it can't get enough of them. Then it will have to employ colored war workers, as much as it dislikes to do so. And we shall need to be ready.

Better Jobs with More Pay

Every domestic servant under 45, man or woman, should prepare to fight or to do war work. Six months' training in a vocational night school will make the change easy and pleasant, because those who are trained will move into better jobs with higher rates of pay.

Some babies will be allowed to cry. Housewives in increasing numbers will have to cook their own meals, dust their own floors, and exercise their own dogs.

That is what is occurring in Europe today, and it is safe to say that is exactly what is going to come about in this country.

And when peace comes, Mr. McNutt says that these people having learned a new and more profitable kind of work will not go back to their old jobs again.

The Myth Mongers Play the Axis Game

SEP 24 1942

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.

It must be dismaying to a lot of people who have known with all certainty, because they got it from a cousin who got it from a friend who told another friend, about the "ELEANOR Clubs," to find out that there is no such thing. In another column on this page appears the result of surveys made by three Southern newspapers which took it upon themselves to trace down rumors about the "ELEANOR Clubs." In the news columns there appears the even-more-convincing statement of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which authorized Mrs. ROOSEVELT herself to say, that it had failed to find any clubs by that name and that its inquiry "produced no definite evidence" of their existence.

SEP 24 1942

The "ELEANOR Club" is known to every housewife in Louisville, probably in Kentucky, who plays bridge or goes to a party or meets another friend at the grocery store. The stories of the doings of ELEANOR Club members are always the same, whether they come from Charleston, or Memphis or Atlanta or Charlotte or Louisville. The ELEANOR Club member is supposed to walk out of the house if anybody says anything detrimental to Mrs. ROOSEVELT. She is supposed to demand entrance to the front door on the way to the kitchen. She is supposed, in the new order of things, to call the housewife by first name, and if the housewife asks for references, the ELEANOR Club member is supposed to say, "I'll be glad to exchange references with you." The slogan is supposed to be "All Negroes Out of the Kitchen by Christmas," or the reverse: "All Housewives Back to the Kitchen." The only difficulty about all of it that the F.B.I. and the Southern newspapers which have investigated say there is no such animal. DAVID BRADFORD, a Negro who did a column for this paper until he went into the Army, said more than a month ago he had found no evidence of any such organization here.

SEP 24 1942

It is perfectly natural that people should have trouble getting, or keeping, domestic servants now. War industries are offering them higher pay than they get in homes. Higher pay makes anybody, white or black, more independent than he was before he got it. It's a human trait, not a racial trait. Every business house in the United States is feeling the loss of manpower, either to the armed forces or to war industries. None of the rumor mongers ever stopped to think about that, apparently.

SEP 24 1942

It never has been a secret to the American government that Nazi and Japanese agents were working among the Negroes. It's a natural place for them to work. (They were also working with white people to stimulate their racial antagonism.) The F.B.I. rounded up several Negro agents of the Japs in a raid in Chicago this week. But, as vigilant as it has been in rounding up enemy agents, it has been unable to find any subversive organization promoting the walk-out of cooks. People who spread such stories as the "ELEANOR Club" myth play exactly the game the Japs and the Nazis want played: the engendering of feeling between the races. The F.B.I. may even find that the rumor which so many gullible people have swallowed, was started by an Axis agent.

'Eleanor Club' Tale Fails Candidate

"P.M. Daily"
N.Y.N.Y.

PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, Nov. 5.—The bogey of the "Eleanor Clubs" was resurrected on election day in Harris County, Tex., representatives of the CIO Oil Workers Union disclosed today.

NOV 5 - 1942

Vance Muse, executive director of the Christian-American Association, a pro-Fascist labor-baiting movement, revived the "Eleanor Club" myth in a leaflet circulated in support of himself. He was running as a write-in candidate against Rep. Albert Thomas in the 8th congressional District.

He didn't get enough votes to merit tabulation by United Press.

The leaflet issued under Muse's signature said in part:

"Eleanor Clubs?

"The so-called Eleanor Clubs are encouraged by Communists. It is a RED RADICAL scheme to organize Negro maids, cooks and nurses in order to have a Communist informer in every Southern home.

". . . . Communists' influence were strong enough on Oct. 13 to cause Houston's Congressman to abolish the poll tax so Negroes could vote free."

NOV 5 - 1942

FBI agents have repeatedly reported that "Eleanor Clubs" don't exist. Muse's leaflet, the CIO reported, was distributed by "a lot of anonymous old ladies."

8

35f-1942
Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

100 Virginia Families, Forced Out by Defense Project, Appeal to First Lady

FEB 21 1942

WASHINGTON

The assistance of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt was sought this week in helping to alleviate conditions in Arlington County, Va., where more than 100 families have been ordered to vacate their lifelong homes to make way for a defense project.

A letter addressed to the First Lady by Albert Dade and Frank W. Adams complains of the "inadequate compensation offered for the homes and the short notice given their occupants. It reads in part:

"In most cases 30 days' notice was given, and in a good many instances only 15 days, for these families to find new homes. The amount offered is inadequate to purchase new property—in some instances as low as $600—and there are absolutely no houses available for rent.

"Still the government agency informs these people they must vacate and find other homes in which to live, even though settlement for the land purchased has not been made and some of these families are without funds to even defray the expenses of moving.

Hardship Threatened

"Surely it was not intended for them to go out in the cold of winter without a roof over their heads to wait until funds are provided by the government with which they may arrange to find new homes."

Attention is called to the long period of residence in Arlington of many of the affected families; some having established residence in Freedmen's Village there during the period of American slavery.

Among the older residents are Mrs. Elizabeth Smothers, 79, of 1018 S. Ninth Street, who has lived in the county all her life, and Mrs. Fannie Cassmer, 96.

Beeseeching Mrs. Roosevelt to intercede toward having the time limit for evacuation extended, the petitioners conclude: "A word from you, as the First Lady of the land, will be of great assistance in correcting this critical situation."

Alabama Journal
Montgomery, Ala
FEB 18 1942

Migration From Farms

For the first time it is revealed that whites outnumber Negroes in all of the Southern states. The 1940 census shows that Mississippi was the last state to maintain its majority of Negroes, but even Mississippi now has 1,106,327 whites and only 1,074,578 Negroes. South Carolina has only 814,164 Negroes as against 1,084,308 whites.

Since this trend is shown in all of the Southern states it illustrates graphically the changes that have been taking place in the South's population, especially in the rural areas. Many thousands of Negroes have in the past twenty years migrated northward, so that vast numbers of them are employed in industrial centers, and New York City has more Negroes in its population than can be found in any Southern city, or in fact in any other community in the world.

This migration has caused an enormous change in the South's economy especially on the farms, and is responsible for a labor shortage on the farm that is so great as to have proved a discouragement to all men operating their plantations with hired or tenanted labor.

Just now it is the fashion of some of the land owners to blame such agencies as the FSA which was designed to help meet the new conditions, with the loss of labor on the farms. But the labor had already gone. It was the conditions brought about by the lack of adequate labor which made the FSA's program, or something similar, so essential unless the farm regions were to dry up completely.

There must be a readjustment to the new conditions, for there is not the remotest hope that laborers who have left the South for more lucrative industrial employment will ever return to the farm. In the Alabama Black Belt we have been solving the problem in part by going into beef cattle production on a big scale, a kind of rural economy that requires much less labor on a given acreage than would be required, for example, in producing cotton. But there are still greater adjustments to be made. The farms are basic and they must continue to supply the world with food, clothes and, in part, shelter. When vast armies of laborers leave, some means must be found to get along with those remaining and to adapt our habits and crops to the change.

The mass migration from farm to city set in following the first World War. There was no answer to the war song, "How you goin' keep 'em down on the farm, after they've seen Paree?" The present war is moving other thousands from the farms and they're not coming back to plow and hoe.

The census figures themselves show what a revolution has taken place and how great are the adjustments that must be made. And it is not going to be solved by sitting around and cussing FSA and the bureaucrats at Washington. If ever anybody, at any time, needed help from the central government to meet a new and precedented situation the rural South needs it now.

Richmond Va Times Dispatch
February 16, 1942

The Negroes Move North

WHITES outnumber Negroes in every Southern State for the first time, it is revealed in final tabulations for the census of 1940. While preliminary figures indicated this to be true, there is no longer any doubt. Mississippi was the last State to have a majority of Negroes, and the 1940 totals give the State 1,106,327 white, as against 1,074,578 colored. South Carolina has the next largest percentage of colored citizens, but the whites there outnumber the Negroes by 1,084,308 to 814,164. In Virginia, the white population in 1940 was 2,015,583, and the Negro population 661,449.

There has been a drop in the rate of Negro population increase, for during the decade which ended in 1930, the increase of this racial group was 13.6 per cent, whereas in the 10 years ended in 1940, it was only 8.2, as compared with 7.2 for the white population. In the South, however, the Negro population grew much more slowly than the white population. This was due, in part, to heavy Negro migration to the North and West, as well as to a high birth rate among the Southern whites.

The total number of Negroes in the United States, as revealed in the 1940 census, was 12,865,518, or 9.8 per cent of the entire population. While the Negroes constituted the same percentage of the total a decade previously, their regional distribution has changed substantially. That is, they no longer comprise as large a proportion of the Southern population, and they constitute a proportionately larger element in the population of the North and West, where they have been crowding into the large cities.

To what extent is their condition better in Chicago or New York than on farms in Alabama or Florida? While they are not confronted with the same sort of discriminatory legislation in the North, there remains the question whether their status there is really any better. For example, the death rate from tuberculosis in Harlem and the Chicago Black Belt is incomparably higher than on Southern farms, or even in most Southern cities. It is an open question, therefore, whether the Negro benefits himself by moving across Mason and Dixon's Line. **Federal Security Administrator Paul V. McNutt** said some months ago that the South had been much more generous in employing Negroes in defense industries than the North had been.

Jacksonville Fla Times Union
February 28, 1942

CHASING A MIRAGE?

Final tabulations of 1940 census figures reveal that white people now outnumber negroes in all Southern States, with Mississippi the last State to cross the line. That State had when the census was taken in 1940, 1,106,327 whites and 1,074,578 colored.

South Carolina, with the next largest percentage of colored citizens, had 1,084,308 whites to 814,164 negroes. Florida's figures were 1,312,125 to 514,198

Release of these figures brings up some interesting questions. The negro is supposed to migrate to the North because he finds conditions of employment and living there more favorable than here in the South, and such migration is largely responsible for the population change in this section.

It is true that there has been a drop in the rate of negro population increase during the last decade, the figures having fallen from 13.6 per cent during 1920-30 to 8.2 in 1930-40, but the movement across the Mason and Dixon Line has been heavier.

Their total number in the United States was 12,865,518, or 9.8 per cent of the entire population, at the time of the census taking, which was the same percentage as in 1930.

But their movement from the South to the East, North and West has brought a substantial change in distribution in the various regions of the country. Where they have been crowding into the large cities they represent a much larger proportion of the population.

Whether the negroes have bettered themselves by the change is a matter they must determine for themselves. But there are a few facts worthy of mention that may be of interest to those in this racial group still remaining in the South.

First, Paul V. McNutt, Federal Security Administrator, says that the South has been much more generous in employing negroes in defense industries than the North has been. And national health statistics show that the death rate from tuberculosis in Chicago's famous Black Belt, and in New York's Harlem is much higher than on Southern farms, or in most Southern cities.

From this it is apparent that what the negro gains by going North is at least offset by what he loses in leaving the South. There he is not confronted with discriminatory legislation as he is here, but he leaves behind the fellowship of a life-time among people of his own race, and the friendship of white persons who know no limit in assisting the colored man they like. Thus he gives up fellowship and at least some degree of feeling of security accruing from friendship for what in effect amounts to a mirage.

New Republic
New York, N. Y.

Northern Prejudice

The story of the Atlantic seaboard camps for Negro migrants makes chastening reading for Northerners. Early this year the Farm Settlement Administration, in coöperation with farm groups, arranged to build eighteen camps for Negroes who work up from Florida, harvesting truck-garden crops and, in Connecticut, tobacco. More Negroes were needed this year. Polish and Italian laborers who have done much of this harvesting in the North have already been drawn into industry.

Two Virginia counties, Accomac and Northampton, one of them dominated by a canner who apparently feared that a decent camp would destroy his labor pool, teamed up with Senator Byrd and had the camps withdrawn on the ground of economy, but elsewhere in the South the program received the warmest support. Churches and women's clubs came forward to ask what they could do to help. But Northern communities—and, shamefully, some Northern Negroes—fought the project. In Gloucester County, New Jersey, a Methodist minister led the opposition. In Burlington County, descendants of Abolitionists and Quakers, living in small cities which draw their incomes from nearby farms, were furiously angry at the idea of a camp near them. Shiloh, Cumberland County, with many Seventh Day Adventists and Baptists (great folk for carrying the gospel of brotherhood to China and Africa), persecuted the farmer who had given land for a camp. In wealthy Suffolk County, Long Island, Negroes at Southampton joined with whites in insisting that they wouldn't have the "trash" from the South around there. In the Connecticut River Valley the story was the same. If Negroes had to come, they'd have to be scattered about, townspeople said. Sheds and hovels were what they were used to and all they needed. The argument that the migrants were less of a "menace" in sanitary, policed camps made no impression.

Some communities were coöperative and by now most of the camps have been built. But the episode is a reminder that the elements of the Negro problem are not "South" and "North" but "intelligence" and "stupidity."

Bystander
Des Moines, Iowa

Reveal Over 1,000 Youth From South Transported Free on Promise of Work

Los Angeles, Cal. (AP)—Charges that 200 of more than 1,000 Negro youths recruited in the south for work on the Pacific coast had been left stranded were made at a state hearing Tuesday.

Carey McWilliams, chief of the division of immigration and housing for the state department of industrial relations, said he was told that the men were transported here without charge by the Southern Pacific railway.

He added that he will appoint a committee representing social organizations to find means to care for the men and see if the railroad can be induced to take them back home.

Jacob Cox, Negro youth from Memphis, Tenn., told McWilliams he had been recruited with 35 others by a Southern Pacific agent at a federal employment service office with a promise he would receive 46 to 52 cents an hour and a free room.

Cox said that from Memphis to El Paso, Texas, where the men were promied work, they had no opportunity to buy food and none was given them. They were brought to Los Angeles and then taken to Reno, Nev. where jobs were found for five of them.

Henry Richman, secretary of a mission here, said he had interviewed more than 200 Negro youths recruited in Memphis, Mobile, Ala.; Chattanooga, Tenn., and other southern cities and left here destitute.

JUL 20 1942

35f-1942

Charleston. S. C. News & Courier
July 19, 1942

12,000 Negroes Move Here; Group Cites Major Problems

An estimate that more than 12,000 negroes have moved into the war-booming Charleston metropolitan area was made yesterday by the Negro Community council in a plea for relief of critical housing congestion. The council asserted that no housing units have been built for these negro defense and construction workers and none are planned.

The statement, which sought to point out negro problems here, cited needs for housing, training negro men and women for war production, adequate recreation facilities for negro enlisted men, defense jobs for negroes commensurate with their training and skill and the right to vote in the South Carolina primaries.

35f

The council's statement follows:

"The planning committee of the Negro Community council at its recent meeting held at Avery institute outlined the program to be prosecuted by the council, for the coming months. The council is made up of representatives of more than twenty-five negro organizations having an aggregate membership of over 5,000.

"With the idea of reinforcing the loyalty of negroes with a high morale during the present world crisis the council is adopting a program designed to remove some of the glaring inequalities which create discontent among the negro populace. The group was aware of many existing conditions and practices which have a weakening effect on the enthusiasm which is needed to make the colored men's loyalty a potent dynamic force in waging a war.

"The alleviating of five major problems were selected as the main objectives upon which the council and its constituent members would focus their attention and concentrate their efforts. Housing conditions in the city of Charleston have been made critical because of the acute congestion resulting from the inmigration of thousands of workers employed in war industries, related activities and the accompanying construction. Reliable sources estimate over 12,000 negroes have in-migrated to metropolitan Charleston. Their coming has added to the already overcrowded conditions under which a large portion of the colored population lived. The present conditions constitute a social hazard and health menace not only to the colored people living directly under the impact of congestion, but to the entire community. Whereas there has been and is marked congestion in housing for whites over 1,500 housing units have been built for white war workers and their families and approximately 2,100 are programmed and under construction. Those units have been constructed by funds from the federal government under the direction of the national housing agency. To date no units have been built for colored defense workers, and none planned.

"In spite of the great necessity for training men and women to meet the demands of the war production no training program has been instituted for the training of negroes. As greater production is needed the tighter will become the labor market and a reserve of trained workers should be in training now to meet the present and future demands. The council is making requests of the proper authorities to tap the available reservoir of negro labor by starting training courses immediately. At the present time courses are being offered for whites at Murray vocational school. Again, there are no courses being conducted for colored.

"The other significant objectives of the council are adequate recreational facilities for the colored men in the armed forces, the employment of negroes in defense work at levels equal to their training and skill, and the securing of the right for negroes to vote in the primaries of South Carolina.

"Some of the member organizations of the council are the interdenominational Ministers union, the Cosmopolitan Civic league, the N.A.A.C.P., and many lodges, fraternities, clubs and sororities."

New Republic
New York, N. Y.

AUG 24 1942

Imported Mexicans

Six thousand laborers will soon be imported from Mexico to work in our Pacific Southwest, where there is a great shortage of labor at present, especially in agriculture. Arrangements have been made between the Mexican and American governments to prevent exploitation of these men. They will get about thirty cents an hour, will be guaranteed work three-quarters of the time, and must go back to Mexico when the job is ended. This is frankly an emergency plan for war time, and must be accepted as such. Yet it is ironic that we should import these workers—and many thousands more who will soon follow them—when there are plenty of unemployed farm workers in our country. Even among Mexicans already here, there are thousands available, existing in great poverty; in San Antonio, according to W. F. Montavon of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, there are 20,000 people or more living in swamps in miserable huts and utter destitution. It is a bitter indictment of our civilization that we aren't willing to take enough care of the laborers already here to make them employable at a given place and time. The care of the Mexican importation holds a lesson which, along with countless others that the war is teaching us so bitterly, we should not forget when the "emergency" is declared to be over.

35f

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

Grand Jury Demands End of Migrant Ills

OCT 17 1942

FREEHOLD, N.J.—White farmers of Monmouth County are greatly disturbed over the recent grand jury demand for "immediate action" to correct the living conditions of migrant workers.

Picturing unwholeome conditions that breed crime and disease, the jury, headed by William Buchsbaum, white, of Glendola, declared that the colored workers brought to this section each year from the South "exist, rather than live, in filthy hovels."

35f

Fight Labor Camps

White farmers of the area, who employ the workers and who have opposed proposals for the establishment of labor camps in Monmouth County, have taken the stand that conditions are satisfactory and better then what the workers have in the South.

Members of the grand jury, which included one colored member, F. Leon Harris, mortician of Asbury Park and Red Bank, recently made a personal inspection of some of the places occupied by famliy relationship or disease, with the inhabitants of such premises entirely without any supervision or any law or health authority, and without any regard to sanitary requirements.

"As a direct result of these conditions, serious crimes have been committed. This grand jury has been informed, and it believes, that such workers are herded together onto trucks and boats from as far away as Florida and from the British West Indies, without any more regard for their health or sanitation than is given to such workers when they arrive in this county, as above described."

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

MIGRATORY FARM WORKERS LIVE IN SANITARY CAMPS

3-P

OCT 24 1942

Farm Security Administration Has Changed a Distressing Story—Provides Proper Housing, Medical Care, Recreation, Sanitary Facilities

BRIDGETON, N. J., ~~Oct. 22~~—Mechanized for rapid transit from State to State, equipped with adequate sanitary and medical facilities, the Farm Security Administration migratory labor camps made their appearance on the Eastern Seaboard for the first time this year.

During the season, 19 mobile units have operated on 40 sites, providing temporary shelter for thousands of migrant workers who have helped harvest Food and Freedom crops in Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Delaware, New Jersey, Connecticut and New York. These camps have served the farmers and nearby communities as well as the farm workers. They have channeled labor into areas where it was most needed, drawing workers from one camp to another farther North as the season advanced.

OCT 24 1942

FSA CHANGED SAD PICTURE

In a few more weeks the curtain will ring down on Act I of one of the most stirring dramas ever enacted along the Eastern Seaboard. For, in November, these migrant farm workers will head South to start the cycle all over again.

The saga of migratory labor moving up and down the Atlantic Seaboard is an old, old story. In many instances it was a distressing story until the Farm Security Administration stepped into the picture with housing, medical care, recreation and sanitary facilities.

LIVED IN JUNGLE COMMUNITIES

OCT 24 194

Migrant workers who followed the progressive maturity of the crops from Southern Florida through North Carolina, Virginia, New Jersey to Maine were forced to set up temporary homes in chicken coops, abandoned barn and "jungle" communities. Thes
people, many of them tenant farm
ers and sharecroppers displace
from the land, traveled by nigh
in caravans of broken down ja
opies loaded with nondescri
household goods, bedding, cookin
utensiles and undernourished chi
dren enroute to the bean and t
mato fields to make the "seasons
While no accurate estimates of t
migrant labor population are ava
able, it is safe to say that at lea
250,000 men, women and childr
annually migrate from the De
South into Eastern Seaboard fiel
as far north as Lake Ontario.

Under a Government plan inaug
rated in August to meet the acu
farm labor shortage, the Farm S
curity Administration is now tran
porting certified workers by r
or bus all distances over 200 mil
This agency of the U. S. Depa
ment of Agriculture arranged f
the workers' travel, their meals e
route, medical care if necessa
and transportation back to t
starting point when the harve
season ends.

35f-1942
Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Men Are Stranded; Jobs Nonexistent

35-f

LOS ANGELES, Calif.—(SNS)—State officials are investigating what is described as a new "Grapes of Wrath" migration of colored workers who declared they were recruited from the southeast and brought here to find the pomised jobs nonexistent.

The investigation that is likely to land suspected operators of employment "confidence games" behind the bars was opened here Thursday in the state building by the division of Immigration and Housing

One of the first to testify at the hearing was James Cox, of Memphis, Tennessee. He said he and several hundred other colored men and boys were recruited through the United States Employment Service by a Southern Railroad agent, who promised them railroad jobs in El Paso, Texas, paying 50 cents an hour.

NEEDED NO FUNDS

Cox said free quarters and reasonable board were promised. Other witnesses corroborated this statement.

"We were told we needed no funds," Cox said. "But a few hours from Memphis we began to get hungry. We got no food.

"When we reached El Paso, we were given box lunches and told we wouldn't stop there after all.

"We were unloaded at Los Angeles July 3 and two days later 16 of us were put on a train for Indio, California. Only five got jobs there. The rest of us came back to Los Angeles.

500 ARRIVE ON COAST

Police Inspector H. S. Eaton said 500 Negroes had been shipped into Los Angeles in the initial allotment and that 30 a day were expected afterward.

Leo O. Peterson, district manager of the United States Railroad Retirement Board, said that "six weeks ago the Southern Pacific requested the Retirement Board to recruit 2,400 track men."

The migration was disclosed when scores of destitute Negroes began besieging Travelers' Aid societies, charitable organizations and relief agencies.

A 10-member committee was appointed to make "a thorough investigation."

BLAME LABOR AGENT

According to Carey McWilliams, chief of the division of Immigration and Housing, there are labor agents or fake employment agencies operating in Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and other southern states that for advanced fees have been sending hundreds of Negro applicants here with instructions to report to various plants and firms where they will be put to work.

Some of them, mostly men and boys as young as 16 and 17, soon got broke while looking for work following their disappointment and became public charges.

JUL 19 1942

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Records Show Large Per Cent of Expedition Members Leave Train Before Arriving At Work Location

MAY IMPORT LABOR FROM MEXICO

BIRMINGHAM.—(ANP)—S. J. Brown, general agent here for the Southern Pacific lines, has released the railroad's official statement explaining the failure of the recent caravan of workers being sent to work for SPL, on the Pacific coast. Several hundred Birmingham Negroes were included in the expedition to the far west.

Railroad officials declared: "Charges of lack of work are absurd, as the railroad has urgent need for track workers and there are jobs for all who will and can take them."

The road's official statement said: "The Southern Pacific paid all transportation to jobs. Some of the men complained that they were not provided with food en route, others that the Southern Pacific did not provide work at destinations as promised. Railroad and commissary officers say that hotel meals were provided upon arrival of the men at El Paso and Ogden and box lunches thereafter, except at certain important transfer points, where meals were again provided."

The statement continued: "Southern Pacific records indicate 15 percent deserting en route; 15 per cent refusing to work after they arrive on the job and 20 per cent quitting after working a short time."

The Southern Pacific said that of the 2,500 workers sent West, 98 percent were Negroes. As an alternative, in settling the dispute, the company has tried to import Mexican track workers.

W. H. Kirkbridge, chief engineer for the Southern Pacific, commenting on the present situation, said that in view of the "practical failure" of the experiment (that of getting workers to the west), the Southern Pacific will renew its application for importation of laborers from Mexico.

AUG 1 1942

Greenville S. C. Piedmont
August 4, 1942

State Farms Use Migrants

Negroes, Working Under Contract, Move Along With The Crops

From the "Around the State House" column in The State, of Columbia:

In recent weeks, South Carolinians have been hearing a good bit about "migratory" labor, and only a few days ago, Governor O'Connor of Maryland appealed to Governor Jefferies for cooperation in efforts to get migratory labor from South Carolina to the Maryland area.

The governor in reply said he regretted to be unable to offer assistance, but that there was no surplus labor in the state.

In fact, he said, the farmers were in desperate straits because of inability to get labor to harvest quickly maturing crops such as fruit and vegetables.

There is some migratory labor in South Carolina, however, composed almost entirely of negroes.

From Georgia and Florida

These are not South Carolina negroes. They come from Georgia and Florida, and last year, according to the federal employment agency, about 3,000 of them passed through the state.

They specialize in harvesting the Iish potato crop and their work is limited almost entirely to the coastal section.

They arrive in Charleston county and on the sea islands and truck farms around Charleston late in May and for about three weeks these laborers, men and women, are engaged in harvesting the potato crop, a crop that is harvested in a hurry and moved on to market.

Sometimes this labor is housed in box cars placed on railroad sidings; farmers occasionally provide cabins for sleeping. Some of the laborers are hired by the farmers and others by the railroads.

On islands around Charleston, the harvested potatoes are placed on barges and are transported to docks owned by railroads. They are moved from the barges on to the docks and thence into the waiting freight cars or trucks.

Works Under Contract

This migratory labor, according to those in position to know, works under contract. White men are in charge of the labor; they make the contact with the farmer for harvesting his crop and they pay the workers and keep them together.

When the crop around Charleston is harvested, the labor moves on up the coast, following the ripening seasons, working as far north as Maine.

Then the men and women get aboard the trucks that have transported them north and go back to Florida, reaching that state just about in time for another crop which is in the making.

They assist with the crop and then again begin their seasonal journey northward, passing through Georgia and on up the coast.

Some of the men who provide this migratory labor have 30 or 40 or even 50 trucks, and in these they move the labor from state to state.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Demand Southern Pacific Explain Mass Importation

Hundreds of Negro Laborers Are Left Stranded on Coast

LOS ANGELES—(ANP)—Implying that the matter is not ended and that the Southern Pacific railroad will have to do a lot of explaining because of pouring hundreds of undesirable and physically unfit Negro men from other states into California, Carney Williams, chief of the division of immigration and housing, completed a lengthy report on the matter and released it here last week.

According to Williams, the railroad needing five thousand laborers for maintenance of way, building new road-beds, etc., in their thousands of miles of right-of-way throughout California, applied to government authorities to import that many Mexican laborers last spring.

But influenced by various civic bodies, the officials of the War Manpower commission and the railroad board insisted that the road first try recruiting labor in this county. It was pointed out to the road that regardless of defense production there were still thousands of idle or poorly paid laborers available without bringing in aliens.

But whether through carelessness or through a secret scheme to prove trained or physically fit Negro laborers were not to be found in this country, the Southern Pacific began unloading non-de-script collections of labor recruits at the rate of three hundred a day. Although the majority of them came from Chicago and other eastern cities. Over 98 percent were colored, but a very small number of each contingent were real laborers or fitted for strenuous work on the scorching desert. Many were minors, whose labor is not permitted by California laws, and a large number were suffering from venereal and other diseases. Arriving here they became a problem for police and charity departmments as in most of the instances the promised work did not materialize.

Williams' report also states that not more than 60 per day were to be shipped in, and that they were to have been examined physically, with assurance of work, housing, etc., provided.

AUG 28 1942

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

LIFE OF MIGRANTS SCORED IN JERSEY

SEP 23 1942

Monmouth Grand Jury Deplores Condition Under Which Farm Workers Live

HEALTH MENACE IS SEEN

SEP 23 1942

Farmers, However, Contend Negroes Are Better Cared For Than at Their Homes

SEP 23 1942

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

FREEHOLD, N. J., Sept. 22—The problem of what should be done about migratory workers in Monmouth County was revived here today when the April term grand jury called for immediate action to correct the living conditions of the workers, which were described as a serious threat to the health and welfare of other county residents in a presentment handed up to Common Pleas Judge John C. Giordano.

Picturing unwholesome conditions that breed crime and disease, the jury, headed by William Buchsbaum of Glendola, N. J., declared the county's migrant workers "exist, rather than live, in filthy hovels." The farmers of the area, who employ the workers and who have opposed proposals for the establishment of labor camps in the county, have taken the stand that conditions are satisfactory and better than the workers live under when they return South.

Members of the grand jury, accompanied by State police and detectives from the county prosecutor's office, recently made a personal inspection of some of the places occupied by the migrant workers and ctme away demanding that the county "do something." The presentment called attention to the fact that the county does not provide living quarters for such workers.

SEP 23 1942

"Living conditions of migrants, who come to Monmouth and elsewhere in New Jersey for farm work, disclose that such migrant workers existed, sometimes in groups, without any shelter, herded together without regard to age, sex, family relationship or disease; with the inhabitants of such premises entirely without any supervision or any law or health authority, and without any regard to sanitary requirements," the presentment said.

"As a direct result of these conditions serious crimes have been committed. This grand jury has been informed, and it believes, that such workers are herded together onto trucks and boats from as far away from Monmouth County as the State of Florida and from the British West Indies without any more regard for their health or sanitation than is given to such workers when they arrive in this county, as above described."

Abram Lott, potato farmer, of Freehold, who has acted as spokesman for the farmers in defending conditions as they are, maintains that when the Negroes arrive from the South they are put up in clean quarters in barns and houses, but that the sanitary conditions deteriorate after the workers are here awhole, and that these conditions exist in spite of efforts to correct them.

Mr. Lott explained that when the Congressional committee for the investigation of migrant workers' conditions visited Monmouth last year it failed to cite any seriously unfavorable conditions in the county as it did in reporting on conditions in Southern New Jersey counties.

SEP 23 1942

In most cases, the workers are transported from the South in the Spring, either by the farmers themselves or by padrones, and are taken back to their homes after the harvest.

35f-1942

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Population Shift: Cause and Effect

MAR 7 - 1942

DISCUSSING census statistics which disclose a continuing migration of southern Negroes to northern and western states, the Richmond Times-Dispatch asks: "To what extent is their condition better in Chicago or New York than on the farms in Alabama and Florida?" In justification of its inquiry the Times-Dispatch cites the death rate from tuberculosis in certain sections of New York and Chicago as being "comparably higher than on southern farms, or even in some southern cities," and quotes Federal Security Administrator McNutt as having said that the south has been more generous in employing colored workers in defense industries than the north has been.

The question raised by our Richmond contemporary is debatable. Climate working on people who for years have been undernourished in the south may be responsible for the comparably higher tuberculosis mortality rate in the north. Certainly, there is no disputing the fact that Negroes are not discriminated against in the north in the provision of facilities for the treatment of tuberculosis, as they are in the south.

MAR 7 - 1942

It was about a year ago that Mr. McNutt made his statement concerning the employment of colored workers in defense industries in the north. Since that time conditions have improved.

Negroes leave the south and go north in search of better opportunities for making a living. They go in search of better jobs for themselves and better schools for their children. Most colored people in the south are keenly aware of the gross inequalities in the public education system. For example: In Alabama the average annual expenditure on the education of each white child is $36.03; on each colored child $10.66. In Mississippi it is $39.96 per white child and $4.97 per colored child. Does not this furnish one pressing reason as to why so many southern colored people live daily in the hope of getting across the Mason and Dixon line? In the south most of them live on their knees. In the north many of them die on their feet. What's the difference?

MAR 7 - 1942

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Puzzled Over Negro Migration

MAR 6 - 1942

Southerners Miss Their Labor on Their Plantations

BIRMINGHAM.— (ANP) — The migration of Negroes from the farms of the southern states to industrial centers and big cities has begun to puzzle the white owners of plantations. The tennat who once worked so inhumanly for meager food and shelter is badly needed.

A recent editorial in "The Alabama Journal," white publication, reads:

MAR 6 - 1942

"Many thousands of Negroes have in the past few years migrated northward so that vast numbers of them are employed in industrial centers and New York City has more Negroes in its population than can be found in any other community in the south. Since this trend is shown in all of the southern states it illustrates geographically the changes that have been taking place in the south's population, especially in the rural areas.

"This migration has caused an enormous change in the south's economy especially on the farms and is responsible for a labor shortage on the farm that is so great as to have proved a discouragement to all men operating their plantations with hired and tenanted labors.

"Just now it is the fashion of some of the landowners to blame such agencies as the FSA, which was designed to help meet the new conditions, with the loss of labor on the farms. But the labor had already gone.

MAR 6 - 1942

"There must be a readjustment to the new condition, for there is not the remotest hope that laborers who have left the south for more lucrative industrial employment will ever return to the farm. The mass migration from farm to city set in following the First World War. There was no answer to the war sing

song, 'How you goin' keep 'em down on the farm, after they've seen Paree?" The present war is moving other thousands and they're not coming back to plow and hoe.

35f

"Census figures themselves show that a revolution has taken place and ho wgreat ar ethe adjustments that must be made. If every anybody, at any time needed help from the central government to meet a new unprecedented situation, the rural South needs it now."

Globe and
Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

NEGRO MIGRATION CREATES PROBLEM ON DIXIE FARMS

MAR 20 1942

Economy of South Threatened By Departure of Workers

BIRMINGHAM, March 5 (By Walter C. Murdock for ANP)—The migration of Negroes from the farms of the southern states to industrial centers and big cities has begun to puzzle the white owners of plantations and tenant farms. The tenant who once worked so inhumanly for meager food and shelter, is very needed and an editorial in "The Alabma Journal" white publication, revealed these facts.

"Many thousands of Negroes have in the past few years migrated northward so that vast numbers of them are employed in industrial centers and New York City has more Negroes in its population than can be found in any other community in the south. Since this trend is shown in all of the southern states it illustrates geographically the changes that have been taking place in the south's population, especially in the rural areas.

"The migration has caused an enormous change in the south's economy especially on the farms and is responsible for a labor shortage on the farm that is so great as to have proved a discouragement to all men operating their plantations with hired and tenanted labor.

"Just now it is the fashion of some of the landowners to blame such agencies as the FSA, which was designed to help meet the new conditions, with the loss of labor on the farms. But the labor had already gone.

MAR 20 1942

"There must be a readjustment to the new condition, for there is not the remotest hope that laborers who have left the south for more lucrative industrial employment will ever return to the farm. The mass migration from farm to city set in following the First World War. There was no answer to the war song, "How you goin' keep 'em down on the farm, after they've seen Paree?" The present war is moving other thousands and they're not coming back to plow and hoe.

"Census figures themselves show that a revolution has taken place and how great are the adjustment that must be made. If ever anybody at any time, needed help from the central government to meet a new unprecedented situation, the rural south needs it now."

Globe and
Independent
Nashville. Tenn.

NEGRO MIGRATION CREATES PROBLEM ON DIXIE FARMS

MAR 20 1942

MAR 2

Economy of South Threatened By Departure of Workers

BIRMINGHAM, March 5 (By Walter C. Murdock for ANP)—The migration of Negroes from the farms of the southern states to industrial centers and big cities has begun to puzzle the white owners of plantations and tenant farms. The tenant who once worked so inhumanly for meager food and shelter, is very needed and an editorial in "The Alabma Journal" white publication, revealed these facts.

"Many thousands of Negroes have in the past few years migrated northward so that vast numbers of them are employed in industrial centers and New York City has more Negroes in its population than can be found in any other community in the south. Since this trend is shown in all of the southern states it illustrates, geographically the changes that have been taking place in the south's population, especially in the rural areas.

35f

"The migration has caused an enormous change in the south's economy especially on the farms and is responsible for a labor shortage on the farm that is so great as to have proved a discouragement to all men operating their plantations with hired and tenanted labor.

"Just now it is the fashion of some of the landowners to blame such agencies as the FSA, which was designed to help meet the new conditions, with the loss of labor on the farms. But the labor had already gone.

"There must be a readjustment to the new condition, for there is not the remotest hope that laborers who have left the south for more lucrative industrial employment will ever return to the farm. The mass migration from farm to city set in following the First World War. There was no answer to the war song, "How you goin' keep 'em down on the farm, after they've seen Paree?" The present war is moving other thousands and they're not coming back to plow and hoe.

MAR 20 1942

"Census figures themselves show that a revolution has taken place and how great are the adjustment that must be made. If ever anybody, at any time, needed help from the central government to meet a new unprecedented situation, the rural south needs it now."

Charleston S. C. News & Courier
March 6, 1942

What Is the Explanation?

In New York city are 478,000 negroes, much more than half as many as are in the state of South Carolina, and one reads in the New York newspapers that they come out of the South in the expectation of improving their condition. Perhaps they do. The News and Courier has not advised negroes against migration from the South. This is supposed to be a country of free movement. We ask newspapers and magazines of the Northern cities to answer this question:

35f

Why do the negro migrants from the South settle in the great cities and rarely in the small towns and country districts?

Are there any negroes in Tonawanda? Is "living" in Detroit and Chicago cheaper than on the farms of Michigan and Illinois?

In the South most of the negroes live on farms and in villages. Are they by general consent and action denied employment in the rural districts of Northern and Western states?

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

NEGRO MIGRATION TO LARGE CITIES PUZZLES DIXIE

MAR 14 1942

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(By Walter C. Murdock for ANP)—The migration of Negroes from the farms of the Southern states to industrial centers and big cities has begun to puzzle the white owners of plantations and tenant farms. The tenants who once worked so inhumanly for meager food and shelter, is very needed and an editorial in ''The Alabama Journal'' white publication, revealed these facts:

MAR 14 1942

''Many thousands of Negroes have in the past few years migrated northward so that vast numbers of them are employed in industrial centers and New York City has more Negroes in its population than can be found in any other community in the South. Since this trend is shown in all of the Southern states it illustrates geographically the changes that have been taking place in the South's population, especially in the rural areas.

35P

''This migration has caused an enormous change in the South's economy espsecially on the farms and is responsible for a labor shortage on the farm that is so great as to have proved a discouragement to all men operating their plantations with hired and tenanted labor.

''Just now it is the fashion of some of the landowners to blame such agencies as the FSA, which was designed to help meet the new conditions, with the loss of labor on the farms. But the labor had already gone.

MAR 14 1942

''There must be a readjustment to the new condition, for there is not the remotest hope that laborers who have left the South for more lucrative industrial employment will ever return to the farm. The mass migration from farm to city set is following the First World War. There was no answer to the war song, 'How you goin' keep 'en down on the farm, after they've seen Paree?' The present war is moving other thousands and they're not coming back to plow and hoe.

''Census figures themselves show that a revolution has taken place and how great are the adjustment that must be made. If ever anybody, at any time, needed help from the central government to meet a new unprecedented situation, the rural South needs it now.''

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

To Probe Railroad Is 'Slave Gangs' on Coast

35P

By Tom Cullen
(Special to the Daily Worker)

LOS ANGELES, July 16.—The Southern Pacific Railroad has been caught red-handed making feverish preparations to dispose of the hundreds of Negro and white imported workers whom it has shut up in a delapidated hotel here before it became a public scandal.

These workers were the latest batch brought here from the South to work on railroad construction gangs at slave wages and under intolerable working conditions, as exclusively revealed by the Daily Worker Wednesday.

JUL 17 1942

The Daily Worker interviewed the supervisor of the Espee's labor contracting firm just as he was in the midst of making frantic efforts to "spirit" some 800 labor recruits out of Los Angeles.

While this reporter was in his office, the supervisor made final arrangement to ship these workers out on a seven-coach passenger train, dumping them at San Joaquin and Sacramento.

MOUNTING INDIGNATION

Indignation over the importation deal, over the social problems which it has created here, has been steadily mounting. A sizable backwash of workers who have quit their jobs because of low wages and bad conditions is beginning to hit the social agencies here and in other cities.

After consultation with the Urban League and the Los Angeles Council of Social Agencies, Carey McWilliams, chief of the State Division of Immigration and Housing, has called a conference to discuss the matter for Tuesday July 14, at 3 P.M. Some 35 leaders in the Negro community, as well as representatives of both public and private agencies, have been invited to attend in Room 1006 of the State Building.

JUL 17 1942

Admission that the Southern Pacific has imported between 2,500 and 3,000 workers from the South into this area in the last three or four weeks was made by W. A. Smith, supervisor of the Threlkeld Commissary Co., 405 S. Wall Street, which acts as labor contractor for the Espee.

About 20 per cent of these workers are white, the balance being Negroes from Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas, Georgia and Alabama.

JUL 17 1942

A number of these Negroes were interviewed by the Daily Worker in the poverty-stricken, firetrap Hotel Jalisco, 419½ S. Main Street, where they are housed by the Threlkeld Commissary Co.

Here definite evidence was obtained that many of the workers had been lured here by promises of high wages, only to find that they have been cheated.

Birmingham Post
Birmingham, Alabama

Negroes Dumped, Jobless, In West

California Investigation Reveals Southern Pacific Labor Recruiters Promised Good Pay To Hundreds—Then Forgot Them

35P

By United Press.

JUL 16 1942

LOS ANGELES, July 16.—The state today was probing a new "Grapes of Wrath" migration of Negro workers who said they were recruited from the South and brought here to find the promised jobs non-existent.

JUL 16 1942

Jacob Cox of Memphis, Tenn., testified at a hearing called by the State Division of Immigration and Housing, that he and "several hundred" other Negroes were recruited through the U. S. Employment Service by a Southern Pacific railroad labor agent who promised them railroad jobs at El Paso, Tex., paying 50 cents an hour, free quarters and reasonable board. Other witnesses corroborated his statements.

Mission Cares For 200

JUL 16 1942

Henry Richman, director of the "Midnight Mission" told Carey McWilliams, chief of the Divison of Immigration and Housing, that 200 other Negroes from the South passed through the mission, one of scores in the "Skidrow" district, last week.

Police Inspector H. S. Eaton said 500 Negroes had been shipped into Los Angeles in the initial allotment and that 30-a-day were expected afterward. The railroad's position was not presented.

Leo O. Peterson, district manager of the U. S. Railroad Retirement Board, said he could not tell what had happened in the Southern cities.

Asked For 2400 Men

"However," he said, "six weeks ago the Southern Pacific requested the Retirement Board to recruit 2400 track men." He said usual procedure was for the board to work through other employment agencies.

The migration was disclosed when scores of destitute Negroes began besieging Travelers' Aid Societies, charitable organizations, and relief agencies.

"We were told we needed no funds," Cox said. "But a few hours from Memphis we began to get hungry. But we got no food.

"When we reached El Paso, we were given box lunches and told we wouldn't stop there after all." Another worker said an agent told him the job was "300 miles farther down the line."

JUL 16 1942

End Up In Los Angeles

"That turned out to be Los Angeles," Cox said. "We were unloaded July 3 and two days later, 16 of us were put on a train for Indio (Cal.). Only five of us got jobs there. The rest of us came back to Los Angeles.

McWilliams announced he would appoint a 10-member committee to make "a thorough investigation."

35f-1942

Negro Migrant Farmers: Food for Freedom Folk

"People's Voice"

New York, N.Y.

SEP 19 1942

Fotos Page 40

SEP 19 1942

35f

By LLEWELLYN RANSOM

Special

Today they are heroes of the soil and workers in the arsenal of democracy—250,000 strong. Yesterday they were forgotten men, nomads of modern times. Today these Negro migrant farmhands ride by rail in comfort and at Uncle Sam's expense, to save the crops that feed the nation's workers and fighters. Yesterday they formed Gypsy caravans of broken down jalopies and wagons loaded down with bedding, household utensils, stoves and undernourished children. They followed tortuous and uncertain trails along the Eastern Seaboard from the Gulf of Mexico to Lake Ontario and back again, if they were lucky. They slept and ate in abandoned sheds, tents, discarded barns, henhouses and dry ditch banks.

Now they follow the ripening crops from one farm region to another and return with no fear of being stranded North. The USEmployment Service sees that they go where they are needed and the Farm Security Administration sees that these harvesters of *food for freedom* live in modern, 15-acre camps with electric lights, running water, laundry facilities, camp kitchen, a medical clinic, nurse and medical attention from local doctors.

SEP 19 1942

Before FHA came, communities often objected to their presence because of the disease and disorder that often came with them. Now the camp provides health and community life. They enjoy self-government, religious services, civic education and entertainment under the supervision of a camp manager and his assistant. From a mimeographed camp paper I read an editorial which said in part:

"It is the manager's desire that every camper find in this a comfortable shelter and a happy home. In order that he may do so, it is the responsibility of each one to carry out the regulations of the camp."

"People's Voice"
New York, N.Y.

Now the communities want them. Farmers are crying for help. The migratory workers are brot in to save the crops. The farmer profits and the community benefits.

The camp is mechanized for rapid transportation and for bombed civilian and army use if necessary.

SEP 19 1942

The guarantees provided by the FSA regarding collective bargaining, minimum wages and living conditions contrast greatly with the former life of these marginal workers. For half a century there have been Mexican, Negro and poor white Arkies and Okies, remnants of the so-called poor-white trash and an accepted part of southern rural economy. They began in various ways. The Negro migrant started his trek when he was driven off the land by technological improvement of the farm, and when he was either beaten and driven off viciously or left in order to escape the bonds of a sharecropper's eternal debt.

SEP 19 1942

Today the FSA guarantees them cash wages weekly from employers, the right to bargain collectively, a minimum of three dollars per day with a 30-day month and "the same fair treatment in camp, no matter what color or religion."

The families live in collapsible houses, perfected by FSA engineers, and single persons live in tents, eight feet by ten, with wooden floors and sides. Single persons are provided single beds. Those who are expert cooks in some instances make their living by using the camp kitchen to cook for others, especially those not attached to families.

Indeed the whole atmosphere suggests possibilities for social rehabilitation where it is needed. The young Negro assistant managers work in this direction. They utilize camp resources for entertainment, procure local bands and speakers and hold elections for a group leader. They also regulate simple maintenance jobs for campers, that campers may thereby use the camp without a feeling of charity, since there is no rent.

That the camp staff is evidently moved by a social sense is indicated by their zest for the work and the not particularly attractive salaries. I was aware of this basic sense of social potentials when I talked to L. Herbert Henegan of the Information Division of the FSA, who works out of the Washington office, traveling from camp to camp studying and reporting conditions.

SEP 19 1942

Henegan is a tall and hearty Texan, sober and reflective. He will talk for hours about this great project of the FHA and its future possibilities for raising the health, social and economic levels of the migrant farmers. He does not talk simply from an emotional reaction of an interested Negro, but speaks out of the experience of a dirt farmer, a student of agriculture and a social minded southerner who knows the rural conditions of the South and West. He is a product of Fisk university Agricultural Academy in Ladonia, Texas, and the school of journalism at the University of Colorado. His summers he spent on a farm in the northern part of Texas. Once he won second prize in the Cotton Palace in Waco, Texas, for growing the second best acre of corn in a state-wide contest. Later he became managing editor of the *Washington Tribune*.

It was while in newspaper work that he became critically reflective of conditions he lived through and, as a result, accepted his present job eagerly and with a conscience free of self-interest.

SEP 19 1942

Close to 2000 migrant workers are now quartered in Jersey, Delavare and Maryland camps, gatherng huge crops of fruit and vegeables for table and canning puroses. They are arriving by the undreds daily in New York State amps, at Farnum on Lake Erie, at ewfane, 60 miles due north of uffalo; at Elba, Hamlin and Wilamson near Rochester. They are athering crops of apples, onions nd tomatoes in Connecticut.

The migratory workers are imortant today because they take he place of the boys-in-arms, but hey are a permanent part of our conomy to be adjusted.

352-1942

GEORGIA

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Survey Shows City Attracting Many Migrants

FEB 11 1942

WPA's Report Reveals Addition of 10,250 to Population.

FEB 11 1942

Arresting population changes wrought in Atlanta by defense preparations, before America's entry into the war, were revealed in a survey made public yesterday by Harry E. Harman Jr., state WPA administrator.

More than 4,450 migrant workers came here between October, 1940, and early November, 1941. With their families, they represented an addition of 10,250 persons.

354

More than two-thirds came from other parts of Georgia and virtually all of the remainder from Alabama, Tennessee and Florida. A third were from rural districts, a fifth from very small towns and a seventh from small cities.

Plan Later Surveys.

At that time, the report pointed out, the local reflection of the national war effort had not reached its greatest importance. Later surveys are expected to show highly accelerated growth.

In the period covered, it was declared, "employment in Atlanta's manufacturing industries increased 15.3 per cent, placing Atlanta in sixtieth rank among America's 84 most populous communities."

FEB 11 1942

There was, however, "considerable out-migration, particularly among skilled workers."

It was found that 28 per cent of the migrants formerly had lived here and an equal percentage were women. Men average 30.6 years of age and women 24.

A fifth of the families had no children, while a third had one to two children. Only a tenth had three or more children.

Survey's Conclusion.

Respecting unemployment, the survey showed 32 per cent of the women and 7 per cent of the men were without jobs. There was nine times as much unemployment among Negroes as whites.

"Because of occupational shifts," it was declared, "the proportion engaged in clerical and operatives' jobs increased markedly."

FEB 11 1942

The survey's conclusion was:

"In view of the high unemployment rate among Atlanta migrants, it seems clear that migrants have recently been attracted to Atlanta a great deal more rapidly than they could be absorbed into local industries."

35g-1942
Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Large Sums Are Asked Of Race

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.—(SNS) — With the coming of the huge new shipbuilding concern to this city, THE NEWS learned this week that large numbers of union racketeers came [illegible] are fattening their pocketbooks on the earnings of the laboring class of men of this community.

Large numbers of complaints have reached this office, some on sworn statements that as much as $50 to $60 is being asked and paid in the unions as joining fees with assurances of jobs at the shipyard

Other unions of the city, it was stated, are charging lesser amounts for union cards, or supposedly union cards on the installment plan, and as soon as the amount is paid into the racketeering union's treasury on the weekly basis, the members [illegible] discharged and others hired to take their places through the same cheap system.

Other statements as to how jobs are being sold through cheap, over night gotten up unions, and as to how inferior men in the various crafts are being used, replacing men of ability and experience, have been made to this publication, and already evidence gathered is being prepared with the names of the unions' and the men heading them, which will be turned over sometime this week to the proper shipbuilding, city and government authorities.

In gathering the news of this horrible practice, one which robs the poor and needy, the NEWS learned that some of these racketeering union bosses [illegible]sing the names of the American Federation of Labor and the CIO, without holding memberships in either.

It was further stated in the bill of complaint on several of the unions here that foremen in various divisions are hiring men inexperienced for the high pay jobs, with the understanding that a certain sum be paid back to them (the foremen) each week's payday. This has been found to exist at the new ship yard and a check on that is being made now by officials of the concern.

Several Jacksonville men, white and colored, have been accused of being in this crew of swindlers, who sit back in off[illegible]g from those who work for their pay, under the guise that they are being helped, and will within the next few days be investigated. There are others who hail from other sections of the country, where their union 'racketeer' activity is widely known. They too will be dealt with according to the law, by being jailed or run out of town.

JUL 28 1942
JUL 28 1942
JUL 28 1942
JUL 28 1942

35g-1942

ALABAMA

Booker T. Washington Sales Agency Launches Obelisk Flour Defense Stamp Drive

Weekly Review
Birmingham, Ala.

APR 3 1942

Workers of the Booker T. Washington Sales Agency of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama arrived in Winston-Salem this week to launch an Obelisk Flour Defense Drive, among the Negro consumers of that area. Ballard & Ballard Millers of Obelisk flour are aiding in the National Defense program by making it possible for the generous quanitities of Premium Coupons in each package to be redeemed for Defense stamps.

APR 3 - 1942

Miss Cleo B. Sharpe, graduate of the Home Economics Department of Tuskegee Institute, demonstrates to home-makers, teachers, and students of Home Economics and others interested in the question of Nutrition, the fine quality of Obelisk flour in bread, cake and pastry making. The Obelisk Defense Stamp Coupon offer is explained and audiences are shown how National Defense may be helped at the same time that Home Economics is being taken care of.

APR 3 - 1942

The Agency's program is being scheduled in churches, schools, home-makers' clubs and theatres throughout Winston-Salem. Obelisk flour recognizes the importance of the Negro market by employing a Negro Advertising Agency to work throughout the territory which it serves.

Weekly Review

GOOD JOBS AVAILABLE AT TUSKEGEE

APR 10 1942

Mr. Eugene Bass, with United States Employment Service at Tuskegee Institute calls to my attention Civil Service Announcement no. 113 for Mechanic Learner - [illegible]0c per hour or $900 to $1080 per year. Both males and females are desired for these positions. Mr. Bass advises consultation of the Civil Service window in Birmingham.

APR 10 1942

Birmingham Post
Birmingham, Alabama

RACE TROUBLE SEEN IN HOLT LABOR ROW

JUN 2 - 1942

HOLT, June 2.—(Special)—Racial trouble as well as labor troubl adds to the confusion of the picture at the Central Foundry Co where approximately half of th 1240 employes stayed away fror their jobs yesterday, William F Ivey, state labor commissioner, revealed today.

Most of the men declining t show up for work are Negroes, Mr Ivey said.

"But it is hard to put your finge on just what has happened to brin this about," Mr. Ivey added.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, PA.

MEN WANTED!

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala. Aug. 27.—The United States Civil Service Commission wishes to call attention to the fact that up to the present time an insufficient number of applications have been received for the position of apprentice, mechanical trades, $2.64 a day for filling vacancies in the U.S. Navy Yard, Charleston, S.C., now open until further notice. The examination, in addition to being held in the State of South Carolina is now being held in other cities in the Fifth U.S. Civil Service District, which comprises the States of Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee, and persons between the ages of 16 and 22 are urged to file their application with the manager, Fifth U.S. Civil Service District, New Post Office Building, Atlanta, Georgia.

AUG 29 1942

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

FBI Probes Fatal Birmingham Blast

SEP 5 1942

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Sept. 3—(ANP)—Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation are seeking the cause of a mysterious explosion which last week caused the death of two Negroes, employed by M. Kimerling and Sons, scrap metal company here.

According to reports of the disaster, Dixon Lanier was killed instantly, and Buster Brown, another worker, died as he was being taken to Jefferson hospital. The explosion occurred while the men were cutting some bales of copper wire with a machine.

Neighborhood residents declared the blast was so strong that it shook the surrounding area and mutilated the bodies of the victims—blowing the clothing of one of the men more than 100 feet from the machine. The explosion, first of its kind there, occurred in the yard, did no damage to the plant. Coroner Gip M. Evans made a preliminary investigation before referring his information to the FBI.

SEP 5 1942

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Electrical Wizards At Tuskegee Air Base Help To "Keep The 99th Flying"

AUG 22 1942 AUG 22 1942

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala., Aug. 20—Stories of racial progress emanating from this remarkable southern institution are no novelty. None have been more fascinating than the progress of Uncle Sam's 99th Pursuit Squadron But the experiences of the men behind the scenes who make the work of these soldiers possible is just as thrilling as the exploits of the aviators themselves. A practical demonstration of the Booker T. Washington educational theory is the work being done here by hundreds of Negro electricians, who are installing and maintaining the intricate electrical machinery required by the War Department for the safe operation of the United States Air Force.

THEY KEEP THE 99th FLYING

AUG 22 1942

The Tuskegee Air Base construction is being directed by McKissack and McKissack, general contractors, but in complete charge of the electrical work is a Tuskegee 1938 graduate of the school of mechanical industries, Clifford Smith of Houston, Texas.

It is he and his talented staff who are installing the searchlights, wiring the buildings, maintaining the outside distributions and performing the thousands of necessary electrical operations which "keep the 99th flying."

The men range in experience from student trainees to master electricians with years of experience. And none of them are satisfied. With very few exceptions they are all organized into classes which meet far into the night under the guidance of the Institute's staff. Further evidence of the mechanic's intense desire for perfection in their work is the organized study groups in which the men exchange ideas relative to their trade.

SAFETY RECORD UNESQUALED

AUG 22 1942

The results of Smith's leadership and the high quality of men employed here is shown in a recent safety report which brought out that 1,000,000 man hours were continuously worked without an accident. This record is one of the finest in the country, but compiling it was no mere accident but again can be traced to the men themselves who have held safety meetings throughout the construction of the project.

All workers take the responsibility to caution each other against unnecessary risks, and older men are continually instructing younger employes as to the proper methods for use in dangerous situations. Keep in mind that this remarkable safety record has been compiled when the orders of the day were for speed and more speed.

CO-OPERATE TO WIN WAR

AUG 22 1942

No racial or labor disorders have flared up at the base. ~~Prevailing~~ in the mind of each man is th thought that nothing must interfere with the progress of their flying brothers in the 99th who ar training to beat the Axis which threatens our way of life.

And no group is more appreciative of these electrical wizard than the men in the pursuit squadron. It is co-operation like thi which wins wars and demonstrate to all who see it that Uncle Sam has a great army of Yankee Doodl Tan helpers who can not only fl but who can also "keep 'em flying."

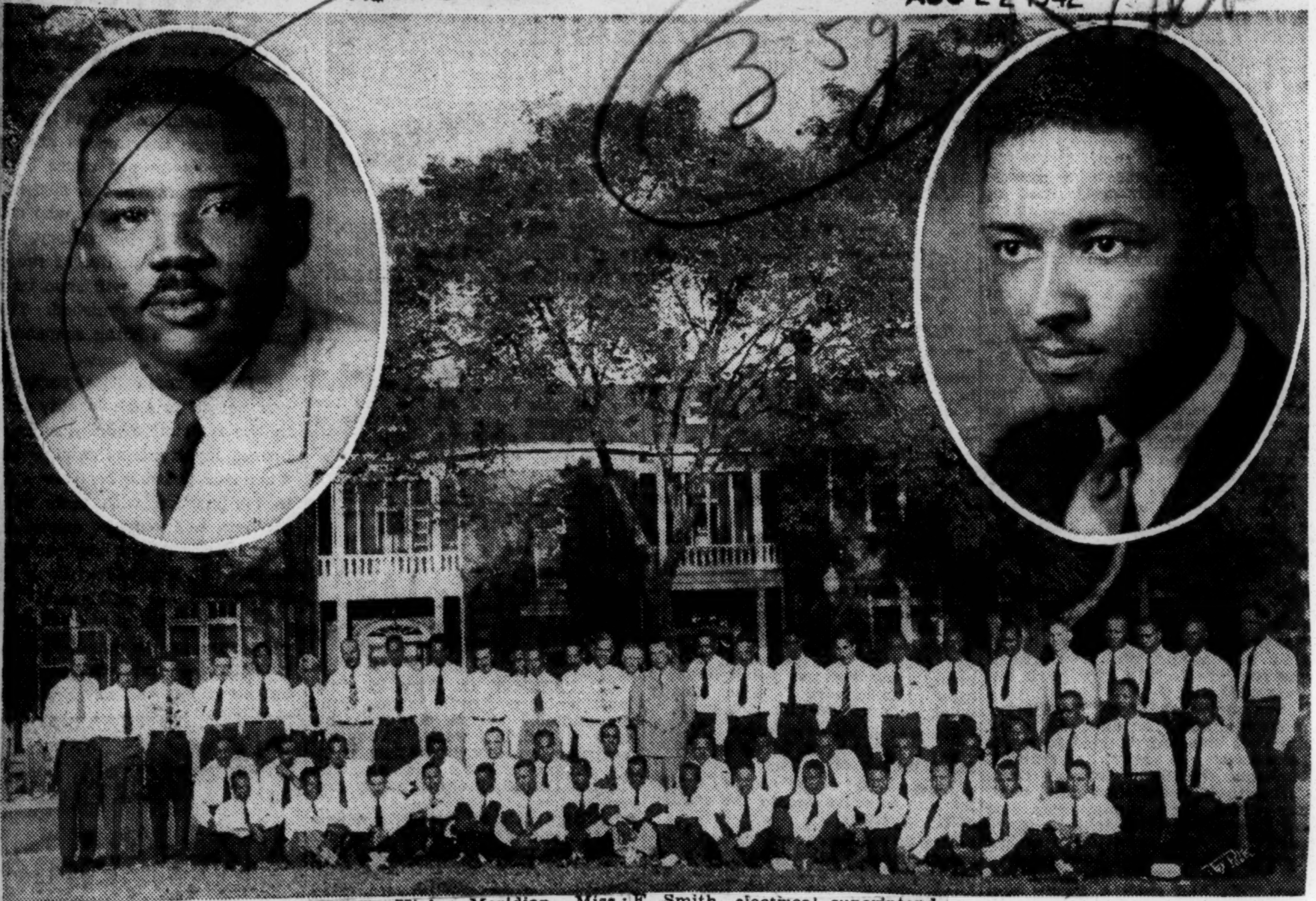
35g- 1942 Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Alabama

AIR BASE ELECTRICIANS PERFORM VITAL DEFENSE JOB

AUG 22 1942

AUG 22 1942

35g



This crew of skilled mechanics have compiled a safety record of over 1,000,000 consecutive hours without an accident, notwithstanding the hazards of their work in the face of a government order for speed and more speed.

Front row, left to right: Walter Brooks, Waverly, Ala.; Earl Scott, Buffalo, N. Y.; Roosevelt Harris, Tuskegee, Ala.; Robert H. Smith, Houston, Texas; Jesse Isaacs, Tuskegee, Ala.; William Hynes, Nashville, Tenn.; Martin Goodson, Eutaw, Ala.; Willie Dowden, Greenville, Miss.; Solomon Moton, Demopolis, Ala.; George Toles, Memphis, Tenn.; Julius Isable, Memphis, Tenn.; Oliver T. Grace, Pinson, Ala.; Green G. Baskett, Tuskegee, Ala.; Walter Smith, Tuskegee, Ala.; Walter Block, Meridian, Miss.

AUG 22 1942

Second row: Granville S. Ridley, Nashville, Tenn.; Donald Jamison, Nashville, Tenn.; Edwin Roulac, Thomasville, Ga.; John Cecil Griffin, Auburn, Ala.; John Thomas, Nashville, Tenn.; Chas. Powell, Tuskegee institute, Ala.; Sidney High, Meridian, Miss.; Archie Yates, Tuskegee, Ala.; Daniel Johnson, Miami, Fla.; John Jackson, Fairfield, Ala.; Samuel Williams, Auburn, Ala.; Eugene Coleman, Shreveport, La.; Robert Brown, Montgomery, Ala.; Casper Pharrow, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Aaron Bass, Jackson, Tenn.; Lionel Jackson, Jackson, Tenn.

AUG 22 1942

Third row: John L. Drake, Tuskegee, Ala.; Homer Gibson, Starkville, Miss.; Luther Askey, San Antonio, Texas; John Gray, Uniontown, Ala.; Isaac Cahill, Memphis, Tenn.; W. B. Foster, Birmingham, Ala.; Guy R. Trammell, Tuskegee institute, Ala.; David Amos, Memphis, Tenn.; Mack Baker, Goodwater, Ala.; W. C. Curtiss, advisory engineer, Tuskegee institute, Ala.; Moses McKissack, Miami, Fla.; Winter McKissack, assistant project manager, Nashville, Tenn.; Willie Jamison, Nashville, Tenn.; Calvin L. McKissack, project manager, Nashville, Tenn.; Thos. Heath, Tuskegee, Ala.; G. R. Nicholson, construction supervisor, Montgomery, Ala.; Clifford F. Smith, electrical superintendent, Houston, Texas; Samuel Brantley, Nashville, Tenn.; Hugh Scoggins, Tulsa, Okla.; Clarence Phelps, Galveston, Tex.; Thomas Dorsey, Greenville, Miss.; George Williams, Auburn, Ala.; Alphonso Amakyi, Tuskegee, Ala.; Robert Drye, Tuskegee institute, Ala.; Willie Johnson, Uvaldo, Ga.; Alphonso K. Williams, Pine Bluff, Ark.; C. V. Bass, Jackson, Tenn.; Harold Clark, Pulaski, Va.

Inset, left: Granville S. Ridley assistant superintendent.

Inset, right: Clifford F. Smith Jr., superintendent of electrica construction at the base.

35g-1942

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negroes Join Machinists as Local Ends Ban

FEB 1 1942

AFL Union in Lockheed Breaks Jim-Crow as 3 Are Initiated

By Jack Young

(Special to the Sunday Worker)

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 31.—Racial bars in the AFL International Association of Machinists, Lodge 727, at Lockheed-Vega Aircraft company had been knocked down here today by the initiation of three Negro workers.

It was believed to be the first time that any machinists local in the United States has admitted Negroes to membership.

The action was considered even more significant in that the decision to throw overboard Jim Crow clauses in the IAM constitution was taken by workers in the aircraft industry—long the center of the most intense employment discrimination.

FEB 1 1942

In other defense sections, notably the San Francisco Bay region shipyards and Boeing Aircraft in Seattle, IAM locals have blocked Negroes from work by refusing to give them clearance.

The three Negroes now full fledged members of Lodge 727 are Owen Knox, Sam Armstrong and Ralph Mackey, brother of the football star, Clarence Mackey.

VOTE TO END BAN

Two weeks ago, Lodge 727's executive board voted eight to six to take Negro workers into the union despite the discrimination clause, but withheld action, until it talked the decision over with the national offices of the union.

Just what the national rule is isn't known here, but it is significant that Knox, Armstrong and Mackey were installed by a field representative of the international, Charles Tiger.

FEB 1 1942

Dropped from the oath taken by all new members of the IAM was the Jim Crow phrase—"and do you further promise to present for membership only qualified white machinists."

After the installation, Tiger drew the three Negro workers aside, suggested they form the nucleus for a Jim Crow unit of the union.

Knox, Armstrong and Mackey emphatically refused, called attention to the fact that they got along fine with white workers in the Lockheed shops

---

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Gets Appointment as Post Office Superintendent in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES — (ANP) — Winning a fight in quicker time than usual in such matters, local citizens who recently started a petition to have a Negro superintendent at Post Office Station "K" saw their dreams realized last Thursday.

AUG 2 1942

Christopher Scott, post office employe who has for a long time been assistant to the superintendent of this busy station, is the man who received the appointmen.t Station K, located in the heart of the Negro business section on Vernon avenue near Central, is one of the most important in the city as well as handling some of the heaviest distributions. The fact that 99 percent of the station's patrons are colored justified the recognition of the group by a member of it in charge, declared local leaders and citizens.

AUG 2 1942

CALIFORNIA

21,000 Negroes Now Employed In West Coast Aircraft Plants

"The Informer"
Houston, Tex.

AUG 22 1942

HOLLYWOOD.—According to a survey made by the Screen Office Employees Guild (AFL) more than 21,000 Negroes are now employed in west coast aircraft plants and the number is increasing. The survey also disclosed that the 85,000 Negroes in this area are not being fully admitted to war activities and specifically charged shipyards and rubber plants with discrimination.

The SOEG, in the midst of tumultous applause at a meeting of the Hollywood clerical union, voted to oppose industrial discrimination equal opportunity was set up to in any form. A committee for investigate reports of all discriminatory practices in all west coast industries.

The survey further disclosed that certain unions, both AFL and CIO, share responsibility with industry for discrimination against Negro workers and minority groups.

AUG 22 1942

Unions Named

The SOEG, pulling no punches, named some of the unions practicing jim crow policies. Five Hollywood guilds and unions that have no Negro members were named—the Screen Writers' Guild, the Screen Actors Guild, Screen Cartoonists, Studio Carpenters, and Studio Transportation Drivers (all AFL). Two others reported no prejudice but no Negro members. Two unions reported no apparent prejudice but no official action on the question. Seven had never considered the question, and only on admitted opposition to Negro membership.

AUG 22 1942

"Huskies" Means Whites Only

The SOEG also disclosed that there is an understanding between the U. S. Employment Service and the Chamber of Commerce that when workers are needed the code word "huskies" means that the U. S. Employment Service is to send white men only on the job. Behind this ruse the U .S. Employment Service has been able to hide its face and is as guilty of perpetuating discrimination as the unions and industry. Despite the urgent need for workers in industry, local chambers of commerce are still stooping to petty and superficial methods of discrimination, the survey revealed.

AUG 22 1942

Curfew on Negroes

In order to trick Negroes out of training in defense courses, a curfew has been enforced against them in preventing them from attending classes in outlying communities which continue until 1 a.m. It is the old trick of some whites to prevent Negroes from receiving a certain type of training which dates back to the days of reconstruction.

The following was outlined by the committee as menaces to democratic government: Reluctance of civilian defense to call the hundreds of Los Angeles Negro volunteers; War Secretary Knox's statement that Negroes would be commanded only by white officers; barring of Negro soldiers by restaurants, theatres and some public parks; Red Cross segregation of Negro blood; and poll tax disfranchisement.

AUG 22 1942

"We find that when management and unions sincerely desire to carry out the President's acts, workers in the plant cooperate fully," the committee declared.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga:

Negro Women To Be St. Car Conductors

OCT 11 1942

LOS ANGELES—(ANP)—Lowering a barrier that has long been accepted as unsurmountable the Los Angeles Street Railway company sprang a surprise on the whole city last Wednesday by opening jobs for colored women and girls as conductorettes. For a number of years civic bodies and newspapers have fought for jobs for colored men as motormen or conductors but without avail. The company apparently felt that it was fulfilling its obligation to the race by using many colored men and women as car cleaners.

OCT 11 1942

But last Wedensday the company not only withdrew the color line but advertised in local papers for Negro women to come and apply for the many jobs open and opening. For the past several weeks the company has been admitting present 20 of these have finished white women applicants and at training and are now operating street cars.

The cause of their having to use women of any race is the heavy inroad the draft and defense work have made in the ranks. As yet they have not attempted to train women to serve as motorettes as this calls for more strenuous work and longer training. But for the job of conductor, the most important requirement is rapid change making and ability to handle the public. Of course they are taught a workable knowledge of the power switches and such other equipment that they have to use. They are taught to make out trip sheets, take box fare readings and turn in accounts at the completion of their runs.

OCT 11 1942

Applicants must be between 25 and 35, 5 feet 3 inches or more, and weigh between 120 and 140 pounds. They are paid during the instruction period and receive the same rate of pay that men do for that type of work.

Negro Women Conductors Wanted In Los Angeles

The Informer

Houston, Tex.

OCT 17 1942

LOS ANGELES—ANP—Lowering the barrier that has long been accepted as unsurmountable, the Los Angeles Street Railway company recently opened jobs for colored women and girls as conductorettes.

For a number of years civic bodies and newspapers have fought for job of conductor, the most impor- or conductors but without avail. The company apparently felt that it was fulfilling its obligation to the race by using many colored men and women as car cleaners.

But recently the company not only withdrew the color line but advertised in local papers for Negro women to come and apply for the many jobs open and opening.

For the past several weeks the company has been admitting white women applicants and at present 20 of these have finished training and are now operating street cars.

Take Men's Places

The cause of their having to use women of any race is the heavy inroad the draft and defense work have made in the ranks. As yet they have not attempted to train women to serve as motorettes as this calls for more strenuous work and longer training. But for the job of conductor, but without avail. tant requirement is rapid change making and ability to handle the public.

Of course they are taught a workable knowledge of the power switches and such other equipment that they have to use. They are taught to make out trip sheets, take box fare readings and turn in accounts at the completion of their runs.

OCT 17 1942

Applicants must be between 25 and 35, 5 feet 3 inches or more, and weigh between 120 and 140 pounds. They are paid during the instruction period and receive the same rate of pay that men do for that type of work.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Jim-Crow Policy Still Holds

Nov. 27, 1942

Notice Appeared In Negro Papers Through an Error

Nov. 27, 1942

LOS ANGELES. — (ANP) — Hope that arose a few weeks ago that the Los Angeles street railway company would drop its jim-crow policy against Negro car crews was blasted shortly afterwards when women who applied for jobs as badly needed conductorettes were refused on account of color.

They had answered advertisements appearing in the local Negro papers calling for women to take training and fill jobs left by men who have been drafted.

But officials frankly admitted that the frantic calls for women power had reached the Negro papers by the mistake of someone in the company'sa dvertising department, so to date not one woman of the group has been hired. They admitted also that there are plenty of cars standing idle in the car barns, and that many of the hundreds of Negro car cleaners already know how to operate them.

All pleas and petitions having fallen on deaf ears, local citizens are at present organizing for a picket line. Enlisting marchers from all parts of the city, they plan to meet at the L. A. Railway company building Wednesday and march in protest.

35g-1942
Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

COLORADO

Colored Workmen on All Jobs at Grand Coulee Dam

APR 4 1942

Grand Coulee Dam, the world's largest concrete structure, is complete. Eighty colored men helped buildt it, working for eight years.

They contributed valuable energy and experience to placing athwart the Columbia River, most powerful stream in the United States, a structure that is providing a large block of electricity to turn the wheels of industries competing with the Axis in the production of aluminum and other products of war.

In plain facts and figures, the dam, situated in eastern Washington, consists of 10,131,999 cubic yards of concrete. It is 4,173 feet long at the crest, 500 feet wide at the base and 550 feet high.

Dam's Power

With it, the Bureau of Reclamation wil lgenerate 1,944,000 kilowatts of power, the largest block of electricity ever developed at one site; irrigate the 1,200,000-acre Columbia Basin, an area as large as the State of Delaware; and control the flow of the river for the benefit of navigation and downstream power plants.

359

Colored workmen had a hand in many of the multifarious operations that accompanied the building of the huge edifice.

On the 35-acre granite base for the dam, their jackhammers chattered through the day and night, removing a thin layer of weatherbeaten rock. The staccato of their steel bits emanated from deep bedrock crevices and from the sheer abutments.

APR 4 1942

Many Records Set

When the foundation had been cleared, they helped pour concrete on the rock foundation and established many concrete-pouring records. For six years, large four-yard buckets dropped out of the sky to release their content into thousands of forms. Colored workers plunged heavy mechanical vibrators into the mix to agitate it into place.

In addition to doing this type of clean-up work, colored men operated some of the mechanical sandblasting machines that scoured the hard surfaces. Too, they assisted in raising forms for new pours, in distributing materials, and in performing many equally important jobs necessary for the proper coordination of the construction work.

APR 4 1942

Helped Build Railroad

They helped unload long trains of bulk cement, sometimes 110 cars per day arriving on the project from many parts of the Pacific Coast, through the operation of giant machines capable of removing the equivalent of 920 sacks in half an hour.

Their helping hand expedited the construction of a vital government railroad, 30 miles in length, over which 58,000 carloads of materials and supplies, a train 435 miles long, were brought.

Step by step, their labor brought the infant dam higher and higher until last fall the last block was poured on the crest, fifty-five stories above the bed of the wide river valley.

Assembled Generators

The largest mass of masonry ever assembled is now in place across the wide river. If poured on an ordinary city block, the deposit would be nearly three times as high as the Empire State Building.

Since the main dam was completed, colored workers have been assisting in the assembling of the giant 108,000 kilowatt hyrdo-electric generators, largest in the world. Each of these machines—theer will be eighteen in all—can illuminate a city the size of Chicago.

APR 4 1942

The men can be found working on the large gates that control the flow of water into the waterwheels of the turbines, on the 74-foot steel shafts, weighing about 200 tons and nearly four feet in diameter, that connect the wheels with the generator rotors overhead, and on other equally large equipment.

Grand Coulee Dam's colored workers are proud of the part they have played in this great construction drama. The words of Frank Jones, one of the veterans on the job, president of the Grand Coulee "Order of the Negro Race," summarizes the feeling of his people:

"The colored American long ago proved himself a valuable citizen of the United tSates. But nowhere on earth has he so well proved his worth as in the construction of Grand Coulee Dam.

"Not only has he done the common labor, but he has also performed those skilled jobs necessary to harness one of the world's largest rivers, the mighty Columbia, and to create the most valuable hyrdo-eelctric unit on earth, so vitally needed to preserve human liberty at this time and in th future."

35g-1942

C.C.C.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Ban Negroes From Enlisting In CCC Camps

MAR 12 1942

Banning Order In Effect 'til Further Notice

Negroes have been banned from enlisting in the Civilian Conservation Corps in Georgia.

An announcement to this effect came Wednesday from Charles A. Coffin, CCC supervisor of the State Welfare Department. The banning order will be in effect until further notice by order of federal headquarters.

MAR 12 1942

Coffin said that camps for Negroes at Waynesville and Royston will be disbanded and the enrollees, about 300, probably transferred to a CCC camp engaged in war activities. At present there is a total of about 1,200 in eight camps, according to the supervisor.

The banning act was declared to be merely part of a new policy of discontinuing campus not actively engaged in war work. However, Coffin said it will "be welcomed by the farmers of this state because of the acute shortage of farm labor.

MAR 12 1942

White enrollment will continue. A March quota of 935 has been set.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Georgia Stops Enrollment of CCC Negroes

MAR 11 1942

Fourth Corps Area Units for Colored Will Be Disbanded.

MAR 11 1942

Discontinuance until further notice of enrollment of Negroes in the Civilian Conservation Corps in Georgia was ordered yesterday by federal headquarters, Charles A. Coffin, CCC supervisor of the State Welfare Department, announced.

He said the ban on enrollment of Negroes was placed in effect because several Negro camps in the Fourth Corps Area would be disbanded in line with the CCC policy of discontinuing camps not actively engaged in war work.

Two Negro camps in Georgia, at Waynesville and Royston, will be discontinued, Coffin said, and the enrollees, about 300, probably will be transferred to Camp Stewart or to some other CCC camp engaged in war activities.

Coffin said in a statement the prohibition on Negro enrollments would "be welcomed by the farmers of the state because of the acute shortage of farm labor."

The state quota for white enrollees for March is 935. The enrollment will be conducted today and all those who enlist will be sent to California, Washington and Oregon to aid in protecting forest resources. MAR 11 1942

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
March 18, 1942

NEGRO VETERANS MOVE INTO ATHENS CCC CAMP

Special to The Chattanooga Times.

ATHENS, Tenn., March 17.—The CCC camp at Athens for white boys has been discontinued and the 190 members were sent Monday to Fort Bragg, N. C., where they will be stationed in a similar camp.

The local camp today became a CCC camp for Negro World war veterans, 130 of them transferred here from Maryville. The commanding officer is Lieut. Burleigh Robinette, who had charge of the camp in Blount county.

Lieut. Robinette is a graduate of Tennessee Wesleyan college. The same type of work will be carried on by the Negro veterans here as heretofore done by the white boys, camp officials said. All officers in charge will be white men.

West Palm Beach, Fla. Times
March 11, 1942

CCC Cutting Down On Negro Enrollments

ATLANTA (AP)—Negroes have been banned from enlisting in the Civilian Conservation Corps in Georgia until further notice by order of Federal headquarters, Charles A. Coffin, CCC supervisor of the State Welfare Department, said.

The negro camps at Waynesville and Royston will be disbanded, Coffin said, and the enrollees, about 300, probably transferred to a ~~CCC~~ camp engaged in war activities. There are about 1,200 negroes enrolled in eight camps at present, Coffin said yesterday.

Coffin declared the ban on negro enrollment was part of the CCC policy of discontinuing camps not actively participating in war work.

The prohibition on negroes, said Coffin in a statement, will "be welcomed by the farmers of the State because of the acute shortage of farm labor."

The March quota for white enrollees in the State is 935.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Two New CCC Camps in Ga. Are Planned

To Be Located At Conley And Camp Stewart

MAR 27 1942

Burton M. Graham, Fourth Corps Area ~~CCC~~ liason officer, Thursday announced plans for establishing two junior Negro companies at Camp Stewart and one at the Atlanta General Depot at Conley. The move will raise the total of CCC camps assigned to military reservations in the state to 15.

Several weeks ago it was announced that Negro CCC companies would be banned in Georgia. A formal protest to the planned move is known to have been made.

According to Officer Graham, two of the companies will be transferred to news stations from Royston and Waynesville and a third company will be made available at a later date. The move brings to five the total number of camps assigned to Camp Stewart.

Included in the work of the reservation CCC are mosquito control, road and bridge construction, anti-tank range construction, boundary fencing and sawmill operation.

Knoxville Tenn Journal
April 9, 1942

Openings For Negroes In CCC Announced

Negroes between the ages of 17 and 23 may apply for CCC enrollment at the State Welfare Office, 400 West Hill Avenue, Friday and on April 17, Mrs. Ella Dixon, supervisor, said yesterday.

Enrollees accepted must be willing to accept assignments in any CCC camp in the continental United States.

Selma, Ala., Times Journal
May 10, 1942

Unlimited Quota For Ccc In County

An unlimited quota of both white and colored youths has been given Dallas County for CCC enrollment it was disclosed Saturday at the office of Mrs. Louise Rice, Welfare Department Director thru which all youths must be certified. The call is for May 19, when Dallas County boys are instructed to appear for physical examinations at Clanton. They must furnish their own transportation.

The only restrictions imposed are on boys needed on farms. These will not be taken, it was stated, and all farm youths are required to present their landlord's statement that they are not so required, it was stated.

Alabama has a state quota of 600 white and 300 colored.

Applicants will be used to build plane shelters, runways, airfields and parade grounds, and roads, bridges and target ranges, it was disclosed. Their services will release many soldiers now engaged in such work, it was stated.

Knoxville, Tenn., Journal
May 15, 1942

Applications Open For Negro CCC Work

The State Department of Public Welfare will accept applications for Negro enrollment in the Civilian Conservation Corps today from 8:30 a. m. until noon at its local offices at 400 West Hill Avenue.

The Negro applicants must be between 17 and 23 years of age and must agree to serve anywhere in the continental United States.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

22,000 Negroes Out If CCC Is 'Chucked'

WASHINGTON, July 2—Like a cat with nine lives, the CCC is to be ended this week if the House does not sustain action of the senate in voting for the continuance of the project stands.

With the demise of this depression born project, often said to be the best of the experimental projects, some 22,000 Negro youths will be thrown out of camps, besides a heavy staff of educational directors, camp directors and mechanics who have been engaged in instructing the young men.

At the present time, there are about 80,000 boys in camps and it is believed the heavy percentage of Negroes had much to do with the vote to eliminate the project.

First, it had been hoped the army would take over the camps but with the curtailment of the money for the necessary budget, hope for this relief was lost.

When the vote came up in the senate, following the introduction of the subcommittee's findings on the floor, a heated debate took place. The vote was taken and it took the vice-president's vote to break the tie—the final count standing 33-32 for the retention of the CCC.

Mr. Wallace knew the President had urged the retention of this project and was doing all in his power to see that the administration won its point.

Senator after senator spoke on the CCC, many of them declaring the Civilian Conservation camps had served their purpose and were not longer necessary to national defense or for the relief of those it was serving.

Although the senate passed the bill for the retention of the CCC, it is unlikely to get by the house which yet has to vote the appropriations for it, amounting to around $78,000,000.

The total number of camps now is 300 compared to almost 10 times that number when the project was in full swing.

Birmingham, Ala. News
June 21, 1942

Conservation Corps To Take In 1,600

The enrollment of 1,250 white and 350 Negro youths in the Civilian Conservation Corps in Alabama will be started Monday with application being received at the Department of Public Welfare, 500 North 20th Street, in Birmingham and at 2013 Third Avenue, North, in Bessemer.

All camps of the CCC are being placed on a wartime basis and the youths between the ages of 17 and 23½ years will play a vital part in the war program, officials announce. They will take the places of soldiers and work in the construction of plane shelters, runways, air fields, parade grounds, target ranges and other war projects.

Transportation will be provided Tuesday for those who apply to Munford, Ala., where enrollment will take place.

35g-1942
Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

CCC

22,000 Out As CCC Is Doomed

35-g

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—Like a cat with nine lives, the CCC finally met its doom Tuesday with the failure of the House of Representatives to sustain action of the senate in voting for the continuance of the project.

With the demise of this depression born project, often said to be the best of the experimental projects, some 20,000 Negro youths will be thrown out of camps, besides a heavy staff of educational directors, camp directors and mechanics who have been engaged in instructing the young men.

At the present time, there are about 80,000 boys in camps and it is believed the heavy percentage of Negroes had much to do with the vote to eliminate the project.

First, it had been hoped the army would take over the camps, but with the curtailment of the money for the necessary budget, hope for this relief was lost.

When the vote came up in the senate, following the introduction of the sub-committee's findings on floor, a heated debate took place. The vote was taken and it took the vice president's vote to break the tie, the final count standing 33-32 for the retention of the CCC.

Mr. Wallace knew the President had urged the retention of this project and was doing all in his power to see that the administration won its point.

Senator after senator spoke on the CCC, many of them declaring the Civilian Conservation camps had served their purpose and were not longer necessary to national defense or for the relief of those it was serving.

Although the senate passed the bill for the rentention of the CCC, it is unlikely to get by the house which yet has to vote the appropriations for it, amounting to around $78,000,000.

The total number of camps now is 300 compared to almost 10 times that number when the project was in full swing.

JUL 2 1942

D.C.

35g-1942
Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Lonely Girl Defense Workers Toss Up Jobs, Flee From 'Cold' Washington

FEB 14 1942

WASHINGTON—(ANP) — Like butterflies with drooping wings, disillusioned war time workers from far away places are wearily turning their faces homeward sadder but wiser after hectic weeks in a mad city which offers nothing but disappointment instead of the job security sought.

FEB 14 1942

Many a typist who smiled gleefully when she got a wire saying she had a job at $1,440 per annum if she would report at her earliest convenience to Washington, has seen her smile turn into a frown of disgust.

And as soon as she possibly could, has shaken the dust of Washington from her tootsies and hied herself back home to ma and pa and a little job at $15 per.

One of the chief causes for this has been the lonesomeness that preys on the girls once they are out of the factory-like offices where they spend some part of the day doing various things.

Going to their little cubbyhole rooms, they are in a different world. None of the glamour of Washington touches them; none of the gayety comes their way and they look only for the dawn of the next day when they trek to their offices in crowded and inconvenient street cars.

FEB 14 1942

Indifferent Washingtonians, the world's greatest snobs and esoteric autocrats, look down on the struggling government workers who have filled the city. They offer no relief from the ennui which envelops the girls; yet they are like vultures when the first and fifteenth rolls around; or perhaps it is the eighth and the twenty-third.

You guessed it the first time, that is pay day. And how quickly that little green check, once cashed, vanishes into nothingness. That is the only time you see one of the Washington harpies smile, when they have a chance to get their talons on some greenbacks.

Crowded rooming houses, with every house now a rooming house, offer no homes for these young girls, many of whom are on their first jobs. And the society they are forced to enjoy is not that they had enjoyed at home.

The night clubs find some of them standing and sitting around, if they have a few shekels left over to dribble away. Then they are fair game for the bar-flies who infest most of the joints in town.

Working conditions aren't what the girls thought they would be. The idea of working for the government must have been having a mahogany desk and a noiseless typewriter of the latest model in an air conditioned, or well heated room, where you started at 9, had lunch hour and quit at 4:30. Oh yeah?

Well, here are some of the shifts. Start at " a.m., or 8:15 a.m. Others start work at 5 p.m. and get off at 12:45 a.m.

FEB 14 1942

One little miss said she gets off at 12:45 and the buses stop running at 12:30 so she has to run five blocks from the street car (a contraption that runs every hour) to get home before 2 a.m. and last week, it was cold in Washington.

And one girl was told by a recently appointed colored personnel officer that it was difficult to place colored typists—so she was one of the class of 30 colored girls who were taken out of the famous "pool" to be trained to do card punching—against her will.

So it goes. That $1,440 vanishes into nothingness and the girls have naught for their pains but grief and woe, as Robert Burns wrote of the mouse whose nest he inadvertently destroyed.

So the poor little butterflies beat their wings against the system and find their wings are frail and tender compared to racial barriers plus Washington's own snobbishness.

FEB 14 1942

And they get tired of fighting both and resign their splendid positions to return home to peace and comfort, leaving Washington to its own and to the more valiant.

FEB 14 1942

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

DISILLUSIONED WAR WORKERS QUIT CAPITAL; TOO LONESOME

FEB 15 1942

FEB 15 19

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12—(ANP)—Like butterflies with drooping wings, disillusioned war time workers from far away places are wearily turning their faces homeward sadder but wiser after hectic weeks in a mad city which offers nothing but disappointment instead of the job security sought.

Many a typist who grinned gleefully when she got a wire saying she had a job at $1440 per annum if she would report at her earliest convenience to Washington, has seen her grin turn into a frown of disgust. And as soon as she possibly could, has shaken the dust of Washington from her tootsies and hied her way back home to ma and pa and a little job at 15 per.

FEB 15 1942

One of the chief causes of this has been the lonesomeness that preys on the girls once they are out of the factory like offices where they spend some part of the day doing various things.

Going to their little cubyhole rooms, they are in a different world. None of the glamour of Washington touches them; none of the gayety comes their way and they look only for the dawn of the next day when they trek to their offices in crowded and inconvenient street cars.

Indifferent Washingtonians, the world's greatest snobs and esoteric autocrats, look down on the struggling government workers who have filled the city. They offer no relief from the ennui which envelops the girls; yet they are like vultures when the first and 15th rolls around; or perhaps it is the eighth and 23rd. You guessed it the first time, that is pay day. And how quickly that little green check, once cashed, vanishes into nothingness. That is the only time you see one of the Washington harpies smile when they have a chance to get their talons on some greenbacks.

Crowded rooming houses, with every house now a rooming house, offer no homes for these young girls, many of whom are on their first jobs. And the society they are forced to enjoy is not that they had enjoyed at home.

The night clubs find some of them standing and sitting around, if they have a few shekels left over to dribble away. Then they are fair game for the bar-flies who infest most of the joints in town.

FEB 15 1942

Working conditions aren't what the girls thought they would be. The idea of working for the government must have been having a mahogany desk and a noiseless typewriter of the latest model in an air-conditioned, or well heated room, where you started at 9, had lunch hour and quit at 4:30. Oh yeah? Well, here are some of the shifts. Start at 8 a. m., or 8:15 a. m. Others start work at 5 p. m. and get off at 12:45 a.. m.

FEB 15 1942

One little miss said she gets off at 12:45 and the buses stop running at 12:30 so she has to run five blocks from the street car (a contraption that runs every hour) to get home before 2 a. m., and last week it was cold in Washington.

And one girl was told by a recently appointed colored personnel officer that it was difficult to place colored typists—so she was one of the class of 30 colored girls who were taken out of the famous "pool" to be trained to do card punching—against her will.

FEB 15 1942

So it goes. The $1440 vanishes into nothingness and the girls have naught for their pains but grief and woe, as Robert Burns wrote of the mouse whose nest he inadvertently destroyed.

So the poor little butterfiies

beat their wings against the system and find their wings are frail and tender compared to racial barriers plus Washington's own snobbishness. And they get tired of fighting both and resign their splendid positions to return home to peace and comfort, leaving Washington its own and to the more valiant.

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

Capitol Waiters Stage Walkout

WASHINGTON, June 16—Unheeded in their two-year fight for increase in pay from $42.50 to $65 a month for full time, and from $25 to $35 for part time, 28 to 34 colored waiters walked out of the House of Representatives main dining room Tuesday in the middled of the noon rush hour.

JUN 13

They complained that the representatives tipped but a dime or nickle and they had to share this with bus boys and also pay 25 cents a day for laundering their white coats.

ORDERS CHANGE IN CERTIFICATION FOR CIVIL SERVICE JOBS

Pittsburg Courier

FEB 28 1942 Pittsburg, Penn

FEB 28 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 26.—President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, incidentally and perhaps unknowingly, last week made possible 100,000 good Government jobs for Negroes. This is the first fruits of the struggle to make democracy a double "VV" right on the home front.

FEB 28 1942

Something drastic had to be done to relieve the pressure and expedite the new Washington business, created by the Axis' blitzkrieg on seven seas and three continents. So the Commander-in-Chief of the United Nations' strategy has issued a sweeping Executive Order (No. 9063), all but abolishing the civil service state quota law and the regulation to certify three eligibles for each new place or vacancy.

Innocent enough on its face, this emergency war edict automatically stops the long honored race discriminatory order of the day by which prejudiced personnel officers of the government have been able to exercise czaristic powers for 75 years in recruiting American citizens for the two million Federal positions. It was just possible for such officials to advise eligible Negro applicants whose names were certified with two others from time to time that someone else had been accepted for the particular opening.

POSITIONS TO PAY FROM $1,080 TO $9,000

Today all this is out, by order of the White House.

Every Federal establishment and agency in Washington and those moving to Chicago, Philadelphia, New York, Richmond, St. Louis and other cities, excepting only the postoffice and field services MUST now take first come and the one sent by Civil Service in all grades. Professional, clerical, technical as well as some custodial positions are in the same category for the duration and six months thereafter.

FEB 28 1942

It is a windfall of approximately 2,000 new Government jobs for Negroes in Washington, D.C., Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and sections north and south nearby the nation's capital. The range of pay will be from $1,080 to $9,000 a year. At the present rate, close to 25,000 additional personnel will be required each week for the next few months to make lend-lease, RFC, War, Navy, FBI, Defense Housing, et cetera, function on all fronts under the 75 billion dollar 1942 U.S. budget appropriations.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Negro Workers Hold Big Jobs

FEB 25 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(SNS)—Negro workers hold responsible positions in the reproduction and distribution section in the War Department where their duties in the big Munitions Building in Washington include stenography and clerical, multigraph, mimeograph and multilith operations. On the efficiency of their unit depends the prompt issuance of press releases and information to a mailing list of 12,000 names.

Of the 30 employes in the section, 16 are colored persons. Thirteen of these colored employes are young women representing five states and the District of Columbia. They are rated by the Civil Service Commission as junior typists and junior clerk-typists, with two holding the rating of junior stenographers. The basic pay of each is $1,440 per annum.

FEB 25 1942

Colored men in the section are Henry Towles, multilith operator; Raymond Simmons, and Alfred Hammonds, retired Tenth Cavalry Sergeants, who handle material in the supply room.

The work of the colored employes is highly praised by Lt. Col. V. F. Shaw, Administrative Officer, and D. Cecil Culbertson, Chief of the Section, who is in immediate charge of the 35 workers. When Simmons and Hammonds were in the Army Col. Shaw was one of their officers at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., where the Tenth Cavalry long was stationed. Everette Edmond, a graduate of the Terrell Law School, has duties in the Administrative Office.

Mr. Towles is a resident of Pittsburgh. Other employes are: Mrs Isabelle Preston, Arkansas City Kas.. Aida Patterson, Mrs. Louise Williams, Linda Wilson and Doris Temple, New York City; Ann Haynes, Frances Scott, Mildred Ransom, Ida Hazel, Philadelphia; Mrs. Rebekah McKinney, Pittsburgh; Adele Richardson, Steelton, Pa.; Willa Sims, St. Louis, and Louise Brennan, Jersey City.

SIXTEEN NEGROES EMPLOYED IN MUNITIONS BUILDING IN D. C.

St. Louis Call

FEB 27 1942

St. Louis, Mo.

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Negro workers hold responsible positions in the reproduction and distribution section in the War Department where their duties in the big Munitions Building in Washington include stenography and clerical, multigraph, addressograph mimeograph and multilith operations. On the efficiency of their unit depends the prompt issuance of press releases and information to a mailing list of 12,000 names.

FEB 27 1942

Of the 30 employees in the section, 16 are colored persons. Thirteen of these colored employees are young women representing five states and the District of Columbia. They are rated by the Civil Service Commission as junior typists and junior clerk-typists, with two holding the rating of junior stenographers. The basic pay of each is $1,440 per annum.

Colored men in the section are Henry Towles, multilith operator; Raymond Simmons, and Alfred Hammonds, retired Tenth Cavalry Sergeants, who handle material in the supply room.

FEB 27 1942

The work of the colored employees is highly praised by Lt. Col. V. F. Shaw, Administrative Officer, and D. Cecil Culbertson, Chief of the Section, who is in immediate charge of the 35 workers. When Simmons and Hammonds were in the Army, Col. Shaw was one of their officers at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., where the Tenth Cavalry long was stationed. Everette Edmond, a graduate of the Terrell Law School, has duties in the Administrative Office.

FEB 27 1942

Mr. Towles is a resident of Pittsburgh. Other employees are: Mrs. Isabelle Preston, Arkansas City, Kans.; Aida Patterson, Mrs. Louise Williams, Linda Wilson and Doris Temple, New York City; Ann Haynes, Frances Scott, Mildred Ransom, Ida Hazell, Philadelphia; Mrs. Rebekah McKinney, Pittsburgh; Adele Richardson Steelton, Pa., Willa Sims, St. Louis, and Louise Brennan, Jersey City.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Transit Company Wants N.C. Whites, No Colored

FEB 28 1942

FEB 28 1942

WASHINGTON

Still refusing to hire colored street car and bus operators, the Capital Transit Company of the District, last week felt the labor shortage to such an extent that it placed an advertisement for operators in a local white daily in Charlotte, N.C.

Although collecting approximately one-third of its fare from colored Washingtonians, the Capital Transit Company implored North Carolina whites to apply for the jobs, advertising: "$30 per week guaranteed after short training period. Many earn more."

Ironically enough, while the Capital Transit Company advertised far afield for men to operate its conveyances, 132 colored Washington men were inducted for service at Fort Meade this week to fight for democracy!

FEB 28 1942

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

REVEAL MORE NEGROES GIVEN CLERICAL JOBS

MAY 23 1942

'Action Seen Indicative Of Policy Change In Defense Set-up

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Increased recognition of services rendered by Negro employes under the war program of the Department of the Interior is shown by the promotion of four of them to professional grade duties, and an expansion in the number of colored employes in clerical positions, it was announced this week by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes.

The following have received promotions into the professional grade within the past few months:

George H. Gray, promoted from senior clerk in the homestead division, General Land Office, to be a law examiner in the minerals division "because of his demonstrated qualifications and ability." An employe of the department since 1919, he holds degrees of A.B. and LL.B. from Howard university.

Ulysses S. Garnes, law examiner in the homestead division, General Land Office, was accorded the professional grade in recognition of his specialized work in examining and passing upon proofs in homestead and other types of cases, involving tract books very complicated and extremely difficult to interpret." He also holds the degree of LL.B. from Howard university.

Roscoe W. Ross, law examiner in the minerals division, General Land office, promoted from his former position as file clerk and adjudicator in the homestead division. He has been in the Department of Interior, and holds and LL.B. degree

MAY 23 1942

Roland A. Henderson, appointed to the position of geodetic computer in the topographic branch of the geological survey. Asisgned to the work on a one year probational basis through competitive examination, department records show Henderson's services are required in connection with the increased mathematical work in the computing section of topographic branch resulting from the expanded program of mapping strategic areas for the War Department.

His duties include the technical operations of copying and adjusting level notes, primary traverse computations and adjusting primary levels.

MAY 23 1942

He received the degree of B. Ed., from Milwaukee Teachers college, and M.S., from Atlanta university. and engaged in advanced studies at the University of Wisconsin.

Latest statistics of the department reveal that 135 out of the 569 Negro employes in Washington are listed in professional and scientific, subprofessional, or clerical positions, and that all but one of the assignments in the professional and subprofessional grades were made since October 1941.

35g-1942

D.C.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Afro Finds War Dept. Beehive

Getting to See Officials No Easy Job

JUN 6 - 1942

JUN 2 - 1942

Even General Marshall Must Identify Himself Properly; Corridor Traffic Always Heavy; Thousands of Colored Employees Do Secretarial and Clerical Work; Many Messengers College Boys; Judge Hastie's Office Is Much Visited.

WASHINGTON

This war will be fought on far-flung battlefields, but it will be won or lost right here in Washington—in the War Department. The army is the body that acts and moves, but the War Department is the brains that tells the body when to move and how to act.

If you haven't been to Washington, or haven't seen your War Department in motion, perhaps you'd be interested in my impressions—and why I think it is one of the most efficient and hard-working departments of the government.

The War Department is scattered all voer Washington, and the new War Department Building is located in Arlington, Va., but the Munitions Building, which is three blocks long, at Nineteenth Street and Constitution Avenue, is the true beehive of grand strategy against the Axis.

JUN 6 - 1942

Appointment Necessary

The telephone number is Republic 6700, which you'd do well to call first if you have business in the buillding. Going to the door without an appointment with somebody certainly adds to your difficulty in getting in.

It may not be a military secret how many persons work in, or visit, the Munitions Building in a single day, but if you ask anybody for an estimate, you'll surely get a funny look. One official mutered through grimly pursed lips that there were "too darn many."

But they're all busy—from the Secretary of War down to the newest messenger boy. Corridor traffic is always heavy. You keep to the right and walk fast to keep people from tramping on your heels.

The persons who work in the Munitions Building (civilians) wear a badge with a number and their photograph on it. Military personnel, officers and enlisted men, must identify themselves. Even Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall must identify himself to get in and out.

Ordinary visitors have a thrilling experience when they seek admittance. A policeman (one day he may be white, and the next day colored) stops you at the door and demands: "Where're you going?"

JUN 2 - 1942

All Packages Searched

You name the person or office you want to visit, and the officer sends you to the long information disk—but if you have a package or even a newspaper under your arm, you enter a room to have it searched. If it contains nothing dangerous, you are sent to the desk for an information session with the receptionist.

She asks you your name and the name of the person you want to see. Then, even if you have an appointment, she calls the person on the phone and verifies the appnoitment. She gives you a badge which you pin to your coat, tells you it must be returned to the desk and jots down the time you received the badge.

Then you wait until the person you are visiting sends somebody to the desk to identify you and escort you to the office. You definitely do not wander at will up and down the corridors.

Given Card to Get Out

When your visit is concluded, you return to the desk and surrender your badge. In exchange, you get a card whi chlets you out of the building. You surrender it to the policeman at the door.

And again, if you have a parcel or paper, you go in and let it be looked over. Then, if everything is okay, you draw a deep breath and walk out a free individual.

JUN 6 - 1942

Colored employees work in the Munitions Building by the thousands. As mentioned before, colored policemen are stationed frequently at the door. Practically every office on the four floors has a corps of messengers, who sit at desks in the corridors and perform a thousand and one duties.

Many of these messengers are colored boys; some are law students at night, while others are elderly men who have been on the job for years.

Hundreds of colored girls work here too. They may be seen walking to and fro in the corridors. They are clerks and typists and secretaries—and good ones too.

Cafeterias Open to All

Colored employees eat in all Munitions Building cafeterias. Colored visitors are supposed to eat in one cafeteria generally used by visitors.

From my personal observations, and from what I have heard, any office in the War Department is open to colored visitors—if they have a worth while reason for going there.

JUN 6 - 1942

One of the most pleasant offices in the Munitions Building is that occupied by Dr. William H. Hastie, civilian aide to the Secretary of War. It is a two-room suite on the second floor, well appointed and much visited.

Courteous Dr. Hastie, who makes a valiant effort to pour oil on the troubled waters when reporters and a critical public conspire to vilify the War Department, is not only respected by the department, but also by the gentlemen(?) of the press who cause the waters to become troubled most often.

Dr. Hastie's job is most difficult, but the consensus is that he and his staff have done a commendable job in explaining the aims and efforts of the War Department in relation to millions of colored people who take an intense interest in the conduct of the war.

JUN 6 - 1942

Dr. Hastie's Staff

Associated with Dr. Hastie is Truman K. Gibson, Jr., and Louis R. Lautier, both capable and well-trained men. In the outer office are two of the most efficient secretaries in the business: Mrs. Authorine B. Willis and Mrs. Norma O. Williams. Messenger Marcellus Mann completes the staff.

Even as you and I, many War Department workers carry their lunches to work with them. Around noon each day you see hundreds of workers buying a cold drink or a bottle of milk, then going to their desks and hauling out the old home-packed sandwiches.

You can see uniforms of all the Allied Nations in the Munitions Building, as soldiers and officers come and go from conferences and office visits.

Near the information desk is the flag that once was draped over the coffin holding Abraham Lincoln's body. The flag is preserved and framed behind glass.

One thing that irks colored workers and visitors, however, is the fact that many taxicabs refuse to accept them as fares in front of the Munitions Building. Time after time I myself have hailed white cabs in vain, but they passed me by.

It does seem that the War Department might include in its battle agenda an assault against discrimination practiced daily at its front door.

JUN 6 - 1942

Bureau Most Visited

The public relations department is perhaps the bureau most visited by outsiders. White and colored newsmen visit its many branches daily for the news that appears in a thousand papers from coast to coast. They get press releases, watch the ticker that never stops ticking off the news and pick up hot tips and leads that forever mushroom when reporters get together.

There is the "listening post," where men sit hour after hour with earphones glued to their ears. They listen in and record short wave and foreign broadcasts. They record the talks of news commentators for future reference.

And every newspaper story in, which the army is mentioned is clipped for the files. No matter, where your paper is printed, the public relations department reads it.

Let there be no doubt about it, the War Department is busy—plenty. Many of its important functions are performed by colored persons, which gives the lowliest farmhand on the Delta cause to feel proud when Allied strategy is translated into a smashing victory.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Domestic Help Scarce in D. C.

WASHINGTON.—(ANP)— White people are finding it more difficult to find experienced qualified domestic help here. At present, according to local estimates, there are 5,000 openings for such jobs in the district with the number growing larger each day.

JUN 5 - 1942

So acute has the situation become, one white woman called a federal agency to direct her just where she could get domestic help.

Anniston (Ala.) Times
June 5, 1942

War Department Employed 567 Negroes In March

The War Department employed in Washington in the month of March 567 Negro civilians, making a total of 2,968 employed by the Department in Washington in the 15-month period ended March 30, 1942.

Of the number employed in March 397 were appointed in the clerical grades and 170 in the custodial service. Recruitment of this personnel, in most cases, was done through the Civil Service Commission.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

WAITERS WALK OUT ON CONGRESSMEN

Quit During Lunch Hour in the House Restaurant, Making Demand for Wage Rise

JUN 17 1942

HIGHER SENATE PAY CITED

Representatives Agree Increase Is Mete and Dispute Will Be Adjudicated

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, June 16—Just when the House of Representatives had decided that the labor situation was not so bad after all twenty-eight of the thirty-four Negro waiters in the main House dining room struck for higher wages today in the middle of the noon rush hour. They are not members of a union.

They walked out and left about a hundred Representatives and their guests stranded somewhere between the soup and coffee. The waiters a week ago petitioned Congress to pay them part time of $35 a month instead of $25, and $65 for full time instead of $42.50.

The New York delegation had just started drinking cocktails and the Florida and Tennessee members had just sat down to discuss the topics that are usually discussed by Florida and Tennessee delegations when the waiters departed.

As a group the Congressmen, who are the real employers, merely enquired what the waiters were being paid, agreed that they should have more and then either marched over to the Senate side of the Capitol and finished their luncheon or to the street, where in good democratic style they served themselves in the House cafeteria.

meanwhile, in the cellar, David Lynn, the Capitol architect, was in despair. A year ago the House Committee on Accounts, bored with running the restaurant, had voted to turn the job over to him. By this afternoon he was thoroughly fed up. Two weeks ago, he explained, he had put down a revolt in the kitchen. A week ago the waiters' petition had been presented, but he had been too busy to take it up.

The incident, apparently, caused no irreparable damage. J. L. Damm, the head waiter, stayed on with six faithfuls and served the Congressmen until he was overwhelmed with orders, complaints, dirty dishes and curious reporters, who seized on the situation as the only bright spot in an extraordinarily dull day.

For all the legislation passed in the House about the proper way to carry on labor disputes, this one followed no laws or rules.

"Who's the spokesmen of this gang?" the manager of the restaurant demanded as the waiters started out the door.

"We're all spokesmen," replied one as he hurried his colleagues down the hall.

The waiters told reporters they had been trying for two years to get a raise in pay. What they had asked was the same as the waiters were getting on the Senate side, and was 20 per cent below the scale in commercial restaurants.

They were required to spend 25 cents a day out of $25 a month for laundering their white coats and they had to split their tips with busboys.

Besides, added one, "we've noticed that Congressmen don't seem to tip very much. Most of them leave a dime and some leave only a nickel. We average about $2.50 a day at that rate."

There apparently is no real dispute. The waiters' arguments appeal to Mr. Lynn, the manager, has no objection to a raise, and the Congressmen, who vote the increase, seemed agreeable.

So the chances are that the incident will be settled by conciliation and white bean soup, which was legislation into the House menu as a daily fixture many years ago, will be served in peaceful surroundings tomorrow afternoon.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

CONGRESSMEN IN NEW ROLES AS WAITERS STRIKE

Representative Poage of Texas serving Representative Mansfield of Texas yesterday after Negro waiters in the House restaurant walked out in a demand for higher wages.

Associated Press Wirephoto

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Many Ignorant About Getting Pay Increases

By AL WHITE

WASHINGTON, D.C. (A N P)—Just as Detroit was primarily an industrial city engaged in the manufacture of automobiles, Washington is a city devoted to "governmental industry." Here are thousands of Negroes working in the only field available to workers in the district, unorganized and without a real competent representative to present their claims and cases when occasion arises. And the occasion arises frequently.

Too many of the workers are entitled to pay raises and promotions, but do not know how to go about getting them.

Too many suffer indignities they should never be made to suffer and have no idea of how to obtain relief.

FEPC HOPES FADE

For a while, it was thought the FEPC would be the medium through which these grievances could be adjusted. But somehow or other, the FEPC has not worked out according to hopes nor plans. In this office at present are two important cases yet undecided involving a number of persons working in government departments.

One is from the navy department and the other is from the state department, where Negro employes have not been getting the consideration they are entitled to receive.

Another department which has come in for considerable publicity along this line is the department of commerce where the moot Perry case brought about a prolonged investigation and argument, but not a satisfactory termination to the complainant.

LEFT STRANDED

Wihout an organization which would take up these cases, the Negro is left stranded high and dry. His appeals to the union usually bring him results but too few belong to unions which are interested in the welfare of the workers.

The NAACP office recently established here is too busy with national affairs to cope with the situation, although the local office once devoted considerable time to these complaints.

The Urban League missed a grand opportunity to be of great assistance in these cases when it first came into Washington. There were no industries it could adjust to any extent and the labor situation was not sufficiently pressing unless one would consider the government workers "laborers."

WORKERS FLOUNDERING

Therefore, without competent and genuine leadership, the Negro government worker is floundering around in a sea of uncertainty and despair seeking some relief which he feels should come to him at an early date.

Too many cases of Negro workers in government agencies starting at a low salary and remaining at the same salary when white workers of equal training get opportunities to advance and obtain salary raises. However, the lack of competent leadership has stymied the Negro workers and will continue to hold them back until some organization sees fit to devote some of its important time to this important phase of Negro life in the capital.

AUG 4 1942

358-1942

35g-1942
Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

4,396 Negroes Employed In Federal Works Agency

SEP 5 1942

Four thousand three hundred and ninety-six Negroes are employed by the Federal Works Agency, it was disclosed this week by Brigadier General Philip B. Fleming, Federal Works Administrator.

This total includes the department and field staff of the Offi of the Administrator, Public Building Administration, Public Roads Administration and Public Works Administration. It includes the departmental staff only of the Works Projects Administration.

In May 1940, when a similar report was prepared, there were 3,442 Negro employees in FWA and constituent agencies. The recent figures indicate an increase of nearly 1,000 Negro employees.

SEP 5 1942

Most Are Custodial Workers

PBA, with 4.183 Negroe employees, is by far the largest employer of Negroes in the Federal Works Agency. They are employed in the operation and maintenance of public buildings Most of them are custodial workers, elevator operators and guards. The number of guards has increased from less than 100 to over 700 in the past two years. Within the past year there has also been a significant increase in the number of Negro junior foremen, skilled workers and elevator starters and supervisors.

Numerous stenographers, typists, statistical clerks, clerks and messengers are employed throughout the various agencies. A recapitulation follows:

Office of the administrator, 76; Public Buildings Administration, 4,183; Public Roads Administratino, 15; Public Works Administration, 16, and Works Projects Administration, 66.

Pittsburgh Courier D.C.
Pittsburgh, PA.

D. C. CONCERN TOLD TO CHANGE POLICY

NOV 7 - 1942 NOV 7 - 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 5—Long-prevailing discrimination against the employment of Negroes as operators by local mass transportation agencies, street cars and buses, may be cracked by the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices as its next step in progressive action to end hiring bias based on race, creed, color or alienage.

It was learned here last week that the Committee is moving in first for a solution of the above problem in Washington where the Capitol Transit company has consistently refused to employ Negroes as operators on its streets cars and buses. Hundreds of Negroes who have answered the company's advertisements have been rejected.

STICKS TO OLD POLICY DESPITE CONFERENCES

Conference between company executives and leaders of Negro citizen groups have all been futile, the company sticking rigidly to its discriminatory policy.

The company does employ several hundred Negroes as maintenance men in its shops.

Recently, according to Lawrence Cramer, FEPC sought and obtained an opinion from counsel for the War Manpower Commission to establish its right to intervene against the transit company. Counsel held that local mass transportation agencies are vital to the war effectively cope with biased employment situations.

Several recent and significant developments have contributed to the expected official government action in attempting to halt discrimination in hiring.

(1) The FEPC is understood to have waged a bitter fight for elimination of the C-45 Bulletin.

(2) Philip Murray recently protested to the Manpower Commission that the clause was the party "to a direct failure to utilize the full manpower of the nation for the war effort."

(3) The Negro press and organizations have bitterly denounced and waged war on the order since its inception.

USES WAS ISOLATED

So much pressure was put on the USES that the agency found itself isolated, since most other government groups charged with employment procedure had virtually mobilized all resources to combat racial bias.

One source now states that when the USES finally decided to act the new order goes "even farther than many of the groups which protested."

UNION SHOWDOWN

Centralization of hiring may also ead to a real "show down" with nions which have been in a posiion to dictate the race and regions of new workers in war lants. Closed shop contracts will o longer serve as a buffer for iased labor locals.

Under new procedure the USES an flatly refuse to comply with race request. If an order comes o the agency, workers of both aces will be sent to the job. If he employer rejects Negroes he vill be reported to the War Manower Commission. If he does not change his stand he will be refused the services of the agency, and since the latter will be the primary source to contact the labor market it seems that a new day will dawn for the Negro in his attempt to gain fair play in defense employment.

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

CIO Official Asks Jobs on Cars, Busses for Negroes

NOV 7 - 1942

An appeal to the War Manpower Commssion and the Office of Defense Transportation to compel the Capital Transit Company to employ colored men as bus and street car operators was made on Wednesday by Sidney R. Katz, secretary-treasurer of the Maryland and District CIO Industrial Council.

Because of the labor shortage the company is unable to fully utilize all of its available rolling stock at this time when it is vitally needed to relieve the public transportation situation, he said.

E. D. Merrill, president of the Transit Company, said, however, that the company has no great excess of equipment in an operating condition. New schedules recently put into effect, he added, has made available a sufficient number of employees to operate the few cars and buses not now in service.

NOV 7 - 1942

Mr. Katz said he made the appeal to the WMC and the ODT to avoid "buck passing from one agency to another." There is plenty of authority right now between both of these agencies "to solve the problem within 24 hours if they want to," he asserted.

NOV 7 - 1942

The two agencies were told by Mr. Katz there are a large number of colored drivers in Washington "who are willing to take jobs in the CTC with the benefit of putting a sufficiently presently idle rolling stock into motion, thus serving our Capital's war workers."

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

F.E.P.C. Warns Capital Transit On Bias in Bus and Car Jobs

12/5/42

After giving "careful consideration" to the complaints submitted against the Capital Transit Company alleging that Negroes are refused employment as bus and street car operators solely because of their race, the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice, War Manpower Commission, this week directed the company to bring its employment policy into line with Executive Order 8802, requiringg that there shall be no discrimination against war workers because of their race, creed, color or national origin.

"In the light of all the facts," and in keeping with its duty to redress grievances which it finds to be valid, the committee called upon the Capital Transit Company to take seven steps to bring its employment practice in line with the national policy as expressed in Executive Order 8802:

Seven Directions Given

12/5/42 ✓

1. Issue formal instructions to all of your personnel officers and employees to recruit, employ, train, or upgrade prospective workers solely on the basis of the qualifications of applicants or workers without regard to their race, creed, color, national origin, or citizenship;

2. Issue formal instructions to the appropriate officer of your company to delete from its Application for Employment Form any reference to race or religion which may be included on it;

3. Give formal notice to any employment agency, whether public or private, through which your Company recruits workers, that it will accept needed workers for any and all classifications of work solely on the basis of their qualifications without regard to their race, creed, color, national origin or citizenship;

4. Give formal notice to any training institution or agency through which your Company recruits or trains workers for upgrading that your Company will accept workers for any and all classifications of work solely on the basis of their qualifications and without regard to their race, creed, color, national origin, or citizenship;

5. Give formal notice to Division 689, Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees of America, that it will comply fully with its obligation not to discriminate against workers because of race, creed, color, national origin, or citizenship in recruitment, upgrading, or in any terms or conditions of employment;

December 5 Is Deadline

6. Furnish the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice with a copy of each of these instructions and notices on or before December 5;

7. Submit a monthly report beginning December 1, 1942, indicating the number of Negroes employed, the number in employment at skill levels (skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled, the number in employment as bus and street car operators, and similar statistics covering white workers.

35g-1942
Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

FLORIDA

Wage Increases Are Voted For Florida Sugar Workers

Producer Must Furnish Residents Without Charge

Nov. 19, 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(SNS)—The U. S. Department of Agriculture today announced minimum wages to be paid laborers in the harvesting of the 1942 sugarcane crop in Florida. The rates represent an increase of between 8 and 12 percent over those prevailing in 1941. Increases in harvesting wages for the crop in Louisiana, the other part of the mainland sugarcane area, were announced on Oct. 10.

The Sugar Act of 1937 requires, among other conditions of payment to growers, that all persons employed on a farm in the production, cultivation, or harvesting of sugarcane, be paid in full by growers at rates not less than those determined by the Secretary of Agriculture to be fair and reasonable after public hearing and investigation. The public hearing was held at Clewiston, Florida on Augsut 25

Nov. 19, 1942

The Sugar Agency of the Agricultural Conservation and Adjustment Administration stated that the harvesting wages have been increased because of increased sugar prices and higher govenment payments, and because of rises in general farm wages and in the cost of living.

Orlando, Fla., Morning Sentinel
November 9, 1942

To Hire 80 Laborers

Eighty negro laborers and a number of white truck drivers will be hired this morning at the offices of the United States Employment Service at 22 East Pine St., at 8 o'clock, G. M. Simmons, manager, announced yesterday.

Views and Reviews

By GEORGE S. SCHUYLER

(This column represents the personal opinion of Mr. Schuyler and in no way reflects the editorial opinion of The Pittsburgh Courier.—The Editor)

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

In the last 30 or 40 years hundreds of hotels, exclusive restaurants and clubs have rid themselves of Negro waiters. Some of the biggest hostelries in the country will not employ a Negro in any capacity whatever. Some of the largest railroads in the country now employ white chefs, where two generations ago this would have been regarded as high treason. Even in the South there are exclusive hotels that will not employ Negro waiters or any other colored help.

There have been various reasons assigned for this change. It has been said that it is due to increasing economic competition driving white men into occupations which they formerly shunned. There is a great deal to this. Others attribute it to the increasing organization of the workers in this field and the consequent squeezeing out of Negroes. Others, less charitable to the Negro workers, claim that the change has been largely due to the fact that Negro workers grew "old" on the job, became careless, discourteous, bumptious and thus offensive to white guests.

FEB 14 1942

There has been no time in this country when there were not white waiters, cooks and maids, but it is undeniable that in the past most of the important hotels and restaurants had Negro help. Until very recently most hotel and restaurant workers, except bartenders, were unorganized, so it is doubtful that the unions brought about the elimination of the Negroes. I think a great deal can be said for the charge that Negroes too often failed to measure up to the increasingly exacting standards of service demanded by the traveling public, which, once provincial and crude, is so no longer.

The other day in Chicago a white man whose esteem for and interest in Negroes is [illegible] great complained to me about the Negro waiters at the well-known and exclusive Palmer House. He says he was shocked and concerned by their rudeness, carelessness, discourtesy and bumptiousness, which reminded him of the poor service he had observed in some Negro eating places on the South Side.

• • •

FEB 14 1942

I, too, was shocked and concerned, because I know how few fine hotels there are left in which Negro waiters can work, and because I was a pioneer in espousing the cause of these Negro waiters when they were fighting four years ago to establish their Federation, giving much publicity to their efforts. I have always been eager to see them keep their jobs and to maintain their union.

Now, the white man who reported this poor service to me is not only a frequent patron of the Palmer House and other Chicago hotels, but has traveled abroad and knows the high standard of European service. I believe he spoke truly, and I take this occasion to warn these waiters to watch their step and improve their manners and their service before other and less friendly white patrons begin to notice and comment on it. They have no lease on work at the Palmer House because they are unionized, any more than the colored waiters in the Washington Terminal restaurant who were recently displaced by white girls.

• • •

FEB 14 1942

Recently I have observed that SOME of the dining car waiters leave something to be desired in service. This is not by any means general, but sufficiently frequent to be noteworthy. If I have noticed it, I am sure white passengers have noticed it, especially those familiar with proper service and who expect to receive it.

The reason why so many Americans have preferred European to American help is because the equalitarian philosophy dominating the latter does not fit them well for domestic roles, whether they be whites or blacks. Too many Americans look upon domestic service as somehow demeaning and at best temporary, as a stepping stone to something "better." The European with a more fixed status has less illusions about "escaping" from his line of work and is thus more prone to make an art of it. He is attentive but not forward. He studies his patron closely and strives to please him. He shuns familiarity, is courteous, punctual and engagingly restrained and self-effacing. He is proud of doing his job well and does not reflect his personal feelings and troubles by his manner and expression. At the same time I have not observed that he lacks dignity or manliness. It takes a highly intelligent person to make a competent waiter, if I am to judge by the service I have observed in English clubs, hotels and aboard the better steamships. No wonder the Englishman makes the best servant, while the ruder, anarchistic American, white or black, makes the worst.

FEB 14 1942

If Negroes are to hold the first class dining rooms in which they are still able to find work, I advise them to give more attention to their profession, to cultivate dignity, courtliness and attentiveness; to serve without fawning; to be gracious without being servile. Those whom the shoe does not fit, need not wear it.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Find Steady Rise In U.S. Employment

WASHINGTON, D. C.—"Janitors and laborers yesterday—skilled workers in war production today!" Hundreds of Negro workers have undergone this transition recently in Detroit, according to Dr. Robert C. Weaver, chief of the Negro Employment and Training branch of WPB's Labor Division, and thousands more will be similarly affected as the automobile industry is converted to full time production of tanks, shells and aircraft.

This increasing transfer of Negro workers from non-defense to defense work in the Detroit area, with the resultant opening of scores of new and better-paid jobs to colored employes was reported by labor director of the War Production Board.

FEB 21 1942

"Within the last few weeks," Dr. Weaver stated, "we have been able to overcome many of the barriers to the transfer and upgrading of Negro workers in this area. As a result, hundreds of former janitors, laborers and foundry workers are already speeding defense production as aircraft riveters, assemblers, picklers, punch and drill press operators, precision workers on milling machines and in many other occupations in which colored workers had seldom been employed previously."

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Urban League Handbook On Negro Labor

FEB 21 1942

NEW YORK.—"Speed Defense Production. Open the Gates!"—a handbook for employers on the use of Negro labor, has just been published by the National Urban League.

This 16 page, red, white, and blue booklet answers the common objections and fears voiced by employers when approached in regard to hiring Negro workmen and women.

It seeks to break down discrimination due to misunderstanding, ignorance, and prejudice by supplying correct information on the training, education, and general ability of Negro labor.

FEB 21

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

Changing Educational Patterns

Statistics show that Negroes in the United States annually graduate from their high schools a quarter of a million young men and women, and that nine tenths of this vast sea of humanity is swallowed up in the labor reservoir of America.

FEB 14 1942

But there should be full examination of this labor reservoir in which the average Negro boy and girl lands after leaving high school. There are protected and unprotected labor pools here in America. In which pool does the Negro youth fall?

An examination of records compiled by the United States Department of Commerce reveals that the 5,505,535 Negroes gainfully employed in the United States are apportioned in the following manner:

Agriculture	36.1 per cent
Domestic and Personal Service	28.6 per cent
Manufacutring	18 per cent
Transportation	7.2 per cent
Trade	3.3 per cent
Professional Service	2.5 per cent
Extraction of Minerals	1.4 per cent
Public Service and Clerical	2.2 per cent

These figures expose the fact that 64.7 per cent of all Negroes gainfully employed in the United States are in two fields, agriculture and domestic service, where there is no bottom in the wage scale, nor limit on the hours employed for the distressing pittance paid, and where social security laws do not reach.

In a recent examination of the employment records of eight industrial firms, Los Angeles area, by the President's Fair Employment Practice Committee, it was discovered that out of 130,000-odd workers employed in defense industry, only 331 were Negroes, and out of this small group only 48 blacks were skilled employees.

Now in the main the industrial firms employing these 331 Negroes were not directly to blame for this situation. White youths are taught courses in schools which convert white youths into skilled artisans and technicians. Records compiled several years ago show the ugly situation existing in black life with respect to skilled training.

Bureau of census figures in connection with technical training of Negroes show that only one-third of one per cent qualified in this field in 1900; the percentage was reduced to one-fifth of one per cent in 1910; one-seventh of one per cent in 1920 and one-sixth of one per cent in 1930. These figures prove Negroes need training in mechanical skills far more than the white group.

These figures reveal the important task that faces Negroes of the United States. We live in a cruel mechanical world, where the current war has exposed Negro schools turning out boys and girls without sufficient training in the mechanical arts to be employed in defense industry. Is this the fault of white industrialists or do these statistics expose a grievous fault in black life?

The Black Dispatch can see no more important task before the Oklahoma Association of Negro Teachers than the implementation of an educational program that will integrate Negro youth into the industrial opportunities of today. No attention whatsoever should be paid to the suggestion that Negro youth be trained only in such fields where there are obvious employment opportunities. Negro youth should be trained to do anything any other young American can do and leave it up to the resourcefulness of Negro youth to find employment for his skill and training.

The vicious and effective destruction of cities during the current world strife has convinced those who guide the destiny of this nation that many of the vital industries must be removed to the midlands. This means that in the central United States, which includes Oklahoma, the vast industrial structure of the East and West will find its way. Thousands, yes, millions, of workers must be trained to work in these industrial plants, and Negro schools of Oklahoma should adopt a long-range program now with this objective in mind.

FEB 14 1942

The Black Dispatch has in mind a program similar to the one developed in North Carolina, where at Greensboro the state maintains for Negroes an institution devoted solely to agricultural and technical training. This is precisely what we need in Oklahoma.

It is too much to assume that instructors whose training has been solely in the liberal arts field, would have sufficient vision and sympathy for the type and character of education we have in mind. Let Langston university continue as a liberal arts college, but somewhere in Oklahoma the campaign should be launched for a school where black boys and girls could be trained effectively to manhandle this mechanical world in which we live.

The program we have in mind would pattern a course beginning in the grade schools. Surely the casualties we have in enrollment before Negro youth completes high school emphasizes the necessity of some sort of terminal course ending earlier, which would send Negro youth out into life able to devote his time to something other than shining shoes or portering in a cheap hotel.

Wood and metal crafts are now paying skilled laborers from $40 to $60 per week. There are a lot of school teachers who could improve their own meal ticket and way of living armed with such salaries. Let's get down to business. Let's get out of these white collars and pressed pants. There is more money in sweat and dirt.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

CHARGES U.S. FORCED HIRING POLICY FAULTY

JUN 27 1942

Anonymous Official Sees Executive Order 8802 As Futile Effort

JUN 27 1942

WASHINGTON. — Pointing out the fallacies in the present employment of Negroes by industries throughout the country, an official of the government said this employment is merely "a token employment" to avoid further complications with the President's Executive Order 8802.

Saying that neither the United States Employment service nor the other groups organized to aid Negroes in getting work are doing an effective job, he pointed out the actual figures on the employment of Negroes against the total figure for employment in a certain area and the disparity in the figures was so startling, it did not amount to one per cent of the total employment.

JUN 27 1942

Again, it was pointed out that a large airplane plant hiring 44,000 people in every department, had 160 Negroes at work, although it had been previously stated that this plant had more than a thousand Negroes employed.

Through the states bordering the great lakes, the same condition exists, this official pointed out. The speaker placed the blame on political aspects, saying the present plant owners wished to embarass the administration.

JUN 27 1942

"Never before in the history of the USES," said this person, "has so little attention been paid the Negro and has the Negro gotten so little as his share of plentiful work."

If this is the true picture, he was asked what could be done to remedy the situation. The answer was not forthcoming since no one thing nor one suggestion will fit the entire picture. There are still manufacturers throughout the South as well as other parts of the country who do not intend hiring Negroes and are open in their expressions to this end, it was alleged.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, PA.

TEXAS BARBER COLLEGE NOW SUPPLYING EVERY STATE WITH BARBERS

Every State in the union is now looking to Tyler Barber College for trained barbers. Unusual opportunities for courageous young men and women with common school education.

Hundreds of applications on our files from States throughout the nation with lucrative guarantees in the offering. Use your thinking ability by choosing a field that offers [illegible] futur[illegible] join the prepared group and be independent for life. Your security in the future depends on what you do now.

Write the first, largest and best equipped school of [illegible] kind in America. Tyler Barber College Tyler, [illegible]as, or Houston, Texas. —H. M[illegible]rgan, president.—(Adv.)

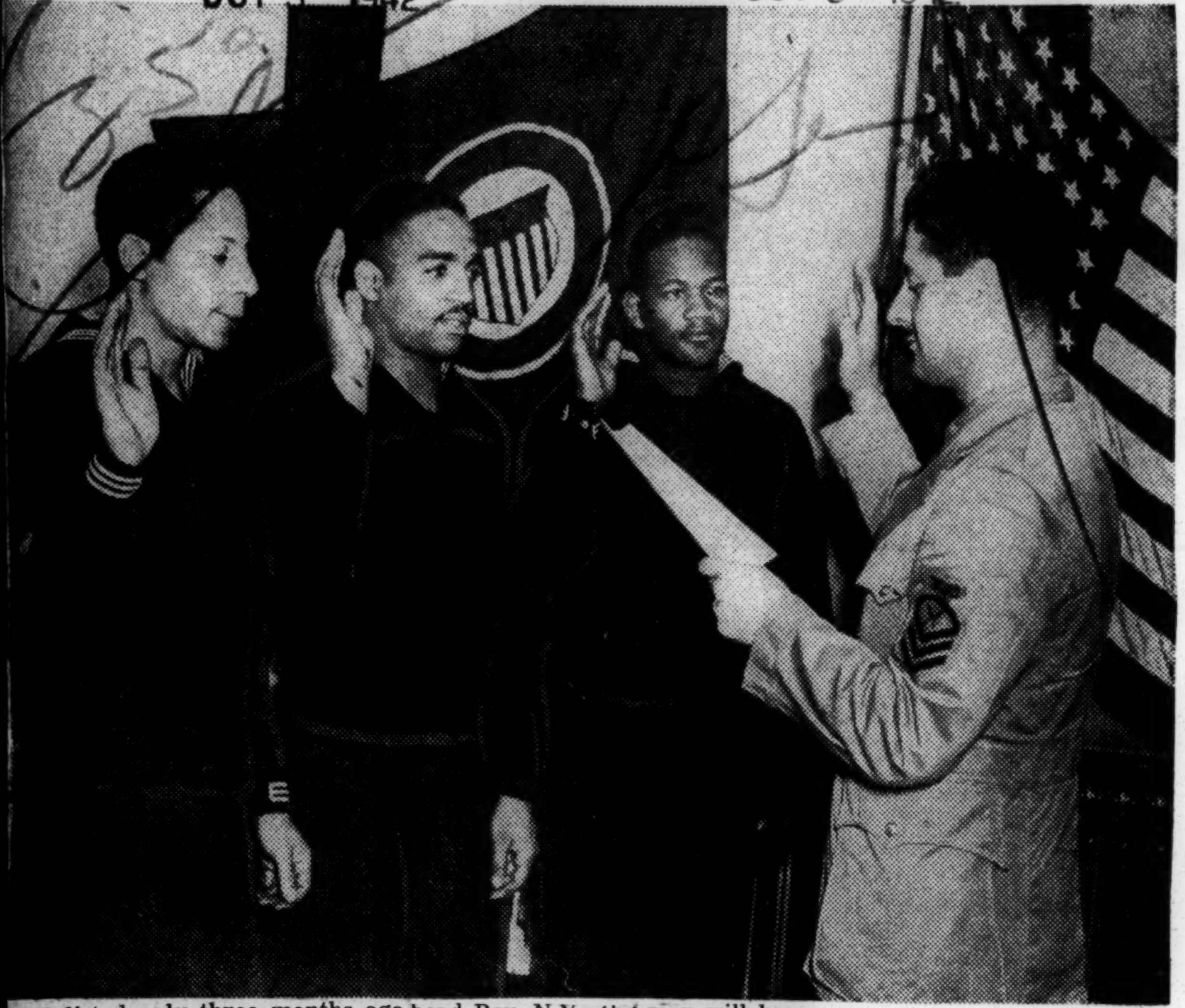
35g-1942
Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

GENERAL

New Merchant Marine Officers

OCT 3 - 1942

OCT 3 - 1942



Enlisted only three months ago, these three members of the American Merchant Marines have already soared to the rank of water tender first class, a practically unheard-of feat, Maritime Service officials said.

OCT 3 - 1942

The men, posed for a ceremony which took place when they joined the marines three months ago, are left to right: Willard C. Brown, of Pittsburgh; Jesse Woods, of Morris, Pa., and Frederick Burgess, of NYC. The officer is Jack Kaufman, white, regional enrolling director.

Declined Instructor's Jobs

Immediately after the picture was taken, the tnree men successfully passed the water tender examination with high grades. Prior to coming to the local Maritime Service office, the commanding officer of their ship had offered them jobs as instructors but the men declined, all preferring active duty on the high seas.

After further training at Sheepshead Bay, N.Y., the men will have their dreams of active duty come true. They have completed the three months' training course which included two months at a training station and a month aboard a training ship.

Pay, $170 a Month

Present pay in the merchant marines for which the three months training fits the enrolless begins at $170 a month, with war bonds as bonuses and food and quarters furnished.

OCT 3 - 1942

Men who desire to join up should see Mr. Kaufman at the U.S. Maritime Service, 110 Chamber of Commerce Building, Commerce and Waters Street. The Merchant Marines is a branch of service operated by the U.S. Maritime Commission and the U.S. Navy.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Asserts New WPA Policy To Be Of Little Aid To Negro

NOV 5 - 1942

NOV 5 - 1942

WASHINGTON—(A N P)—That Negroes should not be so optimistic over the recent proposals concerning WPA is the opinion of Alfred Edgar Smith, race relation officer of that organization. At present, there are some 375,000 persons on the WPA rolls, a large percentage of whom are colored.

The new idea is to put these workers into war work and to train them wherever possible to take over certain phases of war industries. This also applies to those awaiting appointment to the WPA rolls.

NOV 5 - 1942

ONE FOURTH COLORED

"It is estimated one fourth of the workers currently on the WPA are colored," says Mr. Smith. "Optimism over the removal of colored workers to private industry must be tempered by consideration of facts. Many of them are in the south where there is relatively little war industry and many of them are women heads of families with small children. Sample studies indicate high median age for workers and many of these will not fit into existing training projects.

"In case of women, a large number are physically unable to do laundry work or any domestic work now existing. Another factor to be considered is that number of colored workers who have already left the rolls for cotton picking and farm work. But in a month or so, they will be unemployed and seeking re-employment on WPA unless they are absorbed by private industry."

NOV 5 - 1942

Mr. Smith was asked about the discontinuance of school lunches now being talked of in the capital.

TO CURTAIL PROJECTS

"It is possible that this is true and it is too bad that our best projects, recreation and school lunches, must be curtailed because of a lack of workers. Unless we compete wtih private industry and pay higher wages instead of the 'security wage' now given these workers, we must eliminate them. If we pay higher wages, or the prevailing wage, it means fewer workers."

There are at present, 25,000 WPA enrollees in training courses. Of this number fully one-fourth are colored.

Going To The New Job.

The Chicago Bee

DEC 1 3 1942

MANY thousands of colored workers are employed in industries where they have never worked before. This is the result of the war and the manpower shortage that it has produced.

Many of these workers are holding skilled jobs. Others are on the periphery of less important jobs among which are those of laborers, custodians, janitors, porters, and the like.

In most of these jobs the pay is excellent and the hours are reasonable. Many of them will be abolished at war's end while others will continue long after that time.

DEC 1 3 1942

To the Negro worker who is in a place of employment as the first of his race there is a great obligation. He is the sole representative of the colored workers and his conduct and efficiency will be the yardstick that will, in a measure, determine the future hiring policies of such employers when the peace is declared.

Being a good representative means more than being a good worker. It means personality, industry, and creative genius. It means the ability to work with others without being offensive and obnoxious—a pleasing personality. It means doing a little more than the minimum amount of work required of the employee—industry. Where there is an opportunity to improve upon the work it means taking advantage of that opportunity—creative genius.

In other words, the colored worker must not only sell his labor but must sell a pleasing and attractive personality to the new employer if the people of his race are to benefit by the innovation.

DEC 1 3 194

It is our hope that the many thousands of colored workers will so conduct themselves in their work, their efficiency, their appearance, and their general demeanor that it will reflect credit upon others of their race that in the future the hiring of colored workers by certain employers will not be dictated by expediency but by the experience of having had jobs well done by competent colored workers.

35g-1942

GENERAL

Negroes Constitute Tenth Of U. S. Railroad Employes

Pittsburgh Courier

Pittsburgh, PA.

Employed Mainly As Laborers and Helpers—Salaries Lower than White Workers Doing Same Job.

MAY 2 - 1942

NEW YORK, N. Y., Apr. 30—Male Negroes constituted 9.6 per cent of all the employees in active railroad service in 1940, reports Labor Research Association, summarizing statistics released by the Railroad Retirement Board. Of the 1,666,161 workers whose wages during 1940 were reported to the Board, 159,608 were male Negroes. Class I railroads employed 127,674 of them, the Pullman Co., 11,517. "In addition, the class I switching and terminal companies, the smaller switching and terminal companies, the Railway Express Agency, and Class II and III railroads each reported between 4,000 and 5,000 Negro male employees," the Board's annual report states.

On Class I railroads, Negroes were employed mainly as maintenance-of-way laborers, shop and stores laborers, and freight handlers. There were also large numbers employed as janitors and cleaners, helpers in maintenance of equipment and stores, chefs and cooks, waiters and kitchen helpers and train attendants.

WAGES LOWER

MAY 2 - 1942

Average compensation of Negroes in 1940 was substantially lower than the earnings of other employees with an equal amount of service, the report found. For employees with 12 months of service on Class I railroads, Negro extra-gang men averaged only $768 for the year compared with $1,025 for other extra-gang men; Negroes in other maintenance-of-way labor jobs averaged $763 for the year compared with $987 for whites; Negro shop laborers averaged $1,042 and whites $1,208; Negro freight handlers $1,041 compared with $1,286 for whites.

Says the report: "The difference in levels of compensation is apparently not traceable to the fact that Negroes include a larger proportion of casual or shorttime workers in the occupation. On the contrary, the figures clearly show that among Negroes the percentage of employees with 12 months of service was higher than among other employes in the same occupational group; also among employes with less than 12 months of service, Negro males were on the average credited with a somewhat larger amount of service than the white workers." For example, Negro freight handlers with 4.3 months of average service in 1940 had annual compensation of only $182 against $225 for other freight handlers with an average of only 3.8 months service.

MAY 2 - 1942

The Pullman Co., in 1940 employed 7,997 porters and only 3,520 other Negro males. Negroes accounted for 94 percent of all train attendants and their average compensation was $1,052 in 11.2 months of service in 1940.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Domestic Help Shortage Acute

JUN 3 - 1942

WASHINGTON—(ANP)—White people are finding it more difficult to find experienced qualifed domestic help here. At present, according to local estimates, there are 5,000 openings for such jobs in the district with the number growing larger each day.

So acute has the situation become, one white woman called a federal agency to direct her just where she could get domestic help.

She was very bitter about the situation and was at a loss to know who was going to take care of her children while she worked, since Negro girls were being given government positions. Discussing the case over the phone with a colored worker, the woman was outspoken and berated the government for giving these girls an opportunity to work.

JUN 3 1942

She felt they were taking the jobs that rightfully belonged to white girls and men and Negroes had no part in such posts.

Deploring the fact that she could look from her office window and see hundreds of them swaggering in and out of the government buildings, the woman further complained that they even ate in the government cafeterias.

This seemed to [illegible]he final straw for she vowed she would not eat in a cafeteria that served colored girls, although she was extremely anxious to get a colored girl to work for her.

Her chief complaint was that there was no one to mind the children and when she was asked by the colored secretary why she didn't hire white help she almost yelled in dismay, "The poor white trash you get for domestics are no account" is the verbal report given on this point.

Negro girls had been paid $11.75 per week for toiling endless hours for white families where they were subject to many things When these girls, many of whom had been trained in other fields found an outlet for their talents the whites objected and some have gone so far as to write the White House demanding that something be done to keep Negroes in domestic service.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Libeling The Negro Worker

THE false and prejudicial assertion that the Negro skilled and semi-skilled worker is denied equality of opportunity in defense industries because he is unreliable and lacks a sense of responsibility to the employer, is forcefully challenged by a number of employment executives and research experts.

What they say on this important subject is of national interest specifically because the unwarranted attack upon the Negro worker is ostensibly designed to nullify the current investigation by federal agencies of industries which continue to discriminate against him, and, if possible, to stymie the work of the President's Fair Employment Practices Committee and thus weaken the executive order banning such discrimination.

In a factual survey, the Labor Research Association of New York, in an analysis of classifications and wage differentials of Negro males who constituted 9.6 per cent of all employees in active railroad service in 1940, said:

"The difference in levels of compensation is apparently not traceable to the fact that Negroes include a larger proportion of casual or short-time workers in the occupation. On the contrary, the figures clearly show that among Negroes the percentage of employees with 12 months of service was higher than among other employees in the same occupational group; also among employees with less than 12 months of service, Negro males were on the average credited with a somewhat larger amount of service than the white workers."

It is obvious, then, that the poorly paid Negro railroad worker has not allowed salary differential to interfere with his productive capacity, but rather used it as an incentive to disprove the assertion that he is shiftless and not dependable.

The Council For Democracy very timely points out that: "There is a tremendous variation within both groups (of workers); and much depends on the individual in the circumstances in which he works. His efficiency depends on the kind of job he has, on his employer, on the incentives held out to him, on the way he is treated, and on a multitude of other factors."

After quoting a wide field of employers and agencies who rate the Negro worker high in efficiency and good habits, the Council concludes that, "the fault lies, not in the Negro but prejudice against him; that prejudice is unreasoning and is not based upon fact. It is so easy to form a stereotyped picture of a 'race' and to build judgment of an entire people upon a limited experience with a few individuals of that group."

The personnel manager of one of the largest shipbuilding plants in the country employing over 24,000 workers, of whom between 32 to 35 per cent are Negroes, told the Journal and Guide that the Negro workers are doing an excellent job, that the percentage of those found to be shiftless is so small no comment is necessary. The manager of a federal employment office in a vital defense area in the South states: "Employers to whom we have referred hundreds of colored men in national defense work report general satisfaction. It is true that, occasionally, we receive complaints that some of the men fail to show up for work on Monday, but this is the exception, not the rule."

He went on to say that: "One reason for some Negro workers not returning to work is because of an established policy by some firms to hold back one of two weeks pay of the worker when he starts on the job—you can understand what this means to a family man. Another reason is, that many workers are able to find better jobs over the weekend, and use the first salary on the prevous job to serve them on the second."

The personnel superintendent of a large mid-western railroad with large holdings in Virginia commented: "Our experience has been that colored men are very reliable. In cases—and they are few—where some fail to report for work on Monday, we have found such valid reasons as sudden illness or some unforseen emergency."

This libel upon Negro workers can not survive the facts and statistics of our industrial progress. The labor unions and employers who discriminate against them are rendering a tragic disservice to the nation's war effort, and making it impossible for us to reach our production goals in record time.

MAY 16 1942

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

FDR's Executive Order Violated In Some Gov't Agencies -- NAACP

Many branch offices of the United States government in New York City are not carrying out the President's Executive Order 8802 against job discrimination, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People charged yesterday.

The NAACP has protested to L. Metcalfe Walling, administrator of the Wages and Hours Division, U.S. Department of Labor, 165 W. 46th St., against "the apparently deliberate policy . . . of refusing to employ Negro general clerical and stenographic workers in offices located in New York City."

The NAACP told Mr. Walling it had been informed that no Negro clerical workers are employed in the Wages and Hours Division, which moved hundreds of employees here from Washington and hired more in New York City. It is reported that the Wages and Hours Division has a few Negro messengers, one economist, and two inspectors.

CONTRARY TO RULE

The Association pointed out that Negro civil service workers were accustomed to employment in the municipal services of the City of New York on a Civil Service basis, and said: "We are unable to escape the conclusion that some persons connected with employment in your office are discriminating against Negro applicants, contrary to the provisions of the President's Executive Order No. 8802 issued June 25, 1941.

At the NAACP office, 69 Fifth Ave., it was said that the list of government agencies located in New York covers 19 typewritten pages. With but very few exceptions, the Association said, these offices are "lily-white" and that Negro applicants for clerical positions are having the greatest difficulty in getting even an interview.

One example was cited of a personnel interviewer who told a Negro applicant for general clerical work that she could "go on relief."

JUN 15 1942

35g-1942

GENERAL

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

"Labor Appreciation Week"

SEP 12 1942

THERE is published on another page in this issue of the Journal and Guide a proclamation by President A. T. Spaulding, of the National Negro Insurance Association, calling for the observance of September 13th, as "Labor Appreciation Sunday," We heartily endorse the proclamation, and commend its observance most earnestly.

Here in Virginia's Hampton Roads Area, embracing the cities of Norfolk, Portsmouth, Newport News, Hampton and Suffolk, as elsewhere in Virginia and North Carolina, which territory embraces the Nation's number one aggregation of defense industries, the Journal and Guide has had ample opportunity to observe tens of thousands of men and women of the Negro race at work at jobs which pay lucrative wages. On the one hand there are tremendous payrolls flowing into the hands of these men and women, but on the other hand there is not observable a corresponding demonstration of thrift. There appears to be absent the noteworthy movement toward the saving of money and the wise investment of it that was apparent during the years of World War I.

In a letter accompanying the proclamation Mr. Spaulding called attention to the too obvious evidences of thriftlessness, extravagance and waste; the too prevalent habit of spending money for nonessentials; the grievious habit of laying off from work, meanwhile wasting most of the money earned.

"The National Negro Insurance Company," he says, "through the efforts of the National Defense Vigilance Committee, is attempting to cause a sobering up in the attitude of our people by conducting a 'Labor Appreciation Week,' during which, by sermons and otherwise, people will be urged to have the proper appreciation for their jobs and to save some of their earnings."

We can help lose the war through waste. We can help win it by wise conservation of materials and money. When victory and peace come, we shall be able to tide over the difficult period following the war, if during the war we are sensible and prudent. If we have been unwise and improvident we shall have to endure greater suffering than at any time in our history.

Peoples Voice
New York. N. Y.

Shipyard Hirings Increasing Fast

SEP 5 1942

Thousands of Negro shipyard workers, members of both AFL and CIO unions, will celebrate Labor Day, August 7, by participating in the launching of six liberty ships, named after heroes of organized labor.

At the same time, additional thousands of Negro workers will report to their regular jobs that day in 60 shipyards which are rushing to turn out 2,300 new ships by the end of 1943. More than 1,600 skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers will participate in the Labor Day ceremony at the Bethlehem-Fairfield Shipyard in Baltimore, where the Liberty ships *John Mitchell* and *John W. Brown* will be launched.

The majority of these workers have received jobs at the Bethlehem-Fairfield yard within the last few months as a result of negotiations between the Negro Manpower Service, WMC, and the management of the company. Less than 100 Negroes were employed in the yard at the opening of the negotiations. Expansion of Negro employment was also supported there by the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America. John Green, president of the CIO union will speak at the launching of the two ships.

On the West Coast, hundreds of Negro boilermakers, chippers, caulkers, and other skilled and semi-skilled workers will participate in the launching of four additional Liberty ships: the *Samuel Gompers* at the California Shipbuilding Company in Wilmington, Cal.; the *Andrew Furuseth* and the *Peter J. McGuire* at the Richmond Shipyards in Richmond, Cal., and the *James Duncan* at the Oregon Shipbuilding Corporation. John Frey, president of the metal trades department of the American Federation of Labor, will speak at the launching ceremonies of the *Samuel Gompers*.

SEP 5 1942

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Progress In The Merchant Marine

SEP 26 1942

IT'S AN ill wind that blows no good. This war has brought about sharp changes of policy in our military forces, but possibly these changes would not have occurred had Pearl Harbor not happened.

Nevertheless, one more step towards recognition based on merit has been taken by the Negro. Commissioner McCauley of the National Maritime Commission has announced that with the forthcoming christening of the Liberty ship, Booker T. Washington, by Marian Anderson, a Negro will be assigned to pilot that ship.

That Negro is Captain Hugh Mulzao of Brooklyn, N. Y., who has held a master pilot's license since 1920.

SEP 26 1942

This is significant because it means that an opening wedge has been established whereby qualified Negro maritime officers can find employment without being faced with the discriminatory practices of the past.

SEP 26 1942

This war has meant gains, but the Negro is not interested in temporary recognition. If we are qualified to fly planes in wartime, we should be accepted as pilots for passenger planes after the war; if we are qualified as officers in the merchant marine during war, we ought to be employed in the same capacity after the war.

Only time will tell whether an ill wind can blow permanent good.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Urge Use Of Negro Street Car Bus Men

SEP 1 5 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(SNS)—The successful employment of Negroes as bus drivers and motormen in New York City, New Jersey, Florida, and California, was cited at the Annual Meeting of the American Transit Association this week in a discussion of manpower problems in mass transportation.

This development was called to the attention of transit officials by Otto S. Beyer, Director of the Division of Transport Personnel, Office of Defense Transportation, in an address at the Palmer House, Chicago, Ill., Wednesday afternoon, September 9, 1942.

SHOULD UPGRADE MEN

Discussing measures which the industry should adopt to meet its manpower problems, Director Beyer declared.

"In the first place, it can upgrade its less skilled workers to more skilled occupations as rapidly as their qualifications will permit. This process has, in fact, been going on in the industry for many months. It is possible that it has been followed to the point where no large additions to the staffs of skilled workers can be obtained from this source, at least not in the immediate future. It is, nevertheless, a policy which must be preserved as completely as possible. It is much easier to hire unskilled workers than skilled. Any industry which plans its program of work so that men can be hired in the less skilled ranks and then upgraded to higher occupations is at a great advantage in meeting problems of personnel shortages.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEGROES

"There are further opportunities for the employment of Negroes in the transit industry. The July survey of the United States Employment Service showed that there were more than 7,000 non-whites, most Negroes, or about 3.6 percent of the total, among the employees of companies reporting for July. At present they are principally employed in unskilled occupations, but reports of using Negroes as bus drivers or motormen, have come from New York City, New Jersey, Florida and California. There are a few Negro mechanics employed in the industry.

"The transit companies are so much a part of the front line of industrial activity that is supporting the war effort that any major breakdown in its services would represent not only an economic but a military catastrophe. It is up to all of us—Government, management and labor—to make certain that no such breakdown occurs."

35g-1942

GENERAL

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

THE HOME FRONT

ALTHOUGH most of us have our eyes on war jobs of one kind or another, our greatest opportunity as a racial group is on the "home front"—filling those jobs formerly held by whites who are now called into government service.

When the War Department called up 35,000 physicians (white) between the ages of 21 and 35 for active service, it definitely discriminated against the Negro doctor but at the same time this sudden call to war service left many hospitals and clinics understaffed and these vacancies will have to be filled by the remaining physicians, many of whom are colored. In other words, positions never before held by Negro doctors are opening up to them.

Similarly, the shortage of nurses and other hospital workers has created openings for Negroes which they little dreamed of a few years ago. We heard last week that Beth Moses Hospital of Brooklyn, which never before employed Negroes in any capacity, was glad to get a Negro dietician and is filling other vacancies on their staff with Negroes.

A like situation exists in many other lines of employment on the "home front." The Chock Full O' Nuts lunch counter chain, which formerly employed Negroes only in their Harlem store, is now filling vacancies in several of their downtown establishments with Negroes. And in the domestic service families which used to depend on immigrant white help are now glad to get Negroes.

Many of these people have never before had contact with Negroes and whether these new jobs become permanent will depend, in a large measure on whether these first Negro employees make good. Their responsibility is not only a personal one but in a real sense they become ambassadors of their race and can do much good or harm for themselves and the race by the manner in which they conduct themselves in these new jobs.

Although the trend toward government service has been strong in recent years, a majority of us must continue to work for private institutions, corporations and individuals and for that reason new jobs on the "home front" are of paramount importance at this time.

JUL 4 1942

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Labor And Industry

By GEORGE F. McCRAY

WALTER WHITE EXPOSES K. K. K. PLOT ON UNIONS — RANDOLPH AND A NEW LEADERSHIP

The KKK is planning to seize control of local unions of the CIO's United Automobile Workers in Detroit to prevent the advancement of Negroes in defense industries. This charge was made recently by none other than Walter White, national executive secretary of the NAACP. The charge was made while Mr. White was addressing a Negro audience and presumably Mr. White feels there is something Negroes can do to crush this menace to themselves and to their country.

DOES WHITE HAVE A PROGRAM?

Press dispatches did not report what program Mr. White has formulated to defeat the grasp of the KKK for power. However, this much is certain the menace of a revived Klan working as a secret organization within the protective framework and behind the screening of union rights and privileges, cannot be handled on a narrow racial basis. Yet, this is exactly the basis upon which Mr. White's associate, A. P. Randolh, is attempting to handle many of our other interracial problems.

This time Mr. White cannot be dismissed as an alarmist. Neither should we shrug our shoulders with the thought that Negroes are always being threatened with one disaster after another.

CHARGE WELL FOUNDED

For one reason plenty of evidence has come out of Detroit to substantiate the charge that the KKK and other pro-fascist organizations are struggling for power in the unions around that city. To counteract this propaganda the United Automobile Workers, under the leadership of R. J. Thomas, is doing a splendid job to educate white and Negro workers to realize that the safety of their union and their nation depend upon their willingness to accept Negroes and all American workers as brothers.

A second reason why we must consider seriously the charges made by Mr. White is there is simply too much at stake. Next to Philip Murray's United Steelworkers, the United Automobile Workers is the most powerful and influential organization in the CIO. Also like the steelworkers, the auto workers union is the collective bargaining agent for tens of thousands of organized Negro workers. The racial policies of these two unions greatly influence the policies of other CIO and AFL unions all over the country.

The foregoing fact is supremely important to us because the future progress and security of Negro union members and all other Negro workers will depend upon the sincerity and the strength of cooperation they can get in support of their rights as workers from organized labor. I think even the most hopeless, the most sanguine, the most inveterate Uncle Tom will admit that a union under the domination of the KKK will never support the Negro workers' claim for political and economic equality.

VICTORY MUST BE INSIDE THE UNION

As I indicated above singular, isolated Negro action along lines advocated by the March on Washington crowd, will be disastrous. Not only that Negroes acting alone would be unable to bring enough pressure or votes to bear on behalf of or against any particular issue or individual deemed favorable or unfavorable to us, but because such action would establish divisions between Negro and white workers where none need exist. Further, this self-imposed isolation and separation would enable anti-Negro elements to point to the physical existence of a small group of Negroes waging war on white workers.

Already a national union official has been called a "Nigger lover" for insisting that a local union observe the rules of their international union and allow Negroes to work beside them. How much more difficult the settlement of this dispute would have been if those fellows who cried "Nigger lover" could have pointed to a small Negro group and asked: "whose side are you fellows on, theirs or ours?" In this case Negro and white union officials were fighting discrimination together as a unit.

NEW LEADERSHIP DEMANDED

As the Negroes above took the lead in establishing committees composed of Negro and white workers to "stimulate their international officials to lay down the law to the local union, so must Negroes generally take the lead in stimulating joint Negro-white cooperation. We must do it for we are most often the victims of undemocratic practices. However, if this move is to be successful we must have a leadership which has the self-confidence, the skill and the ability to express a point of view broad enough to establish itself as a leader of white men as well as Negroes.

All the argument which could be offered in support of the latter statement is covered in the observation that the only people who are interested in Negroes as such are philanthropists and Negroes themselves. Though most Negroes are beginning to realize this, it seems to be very difficult for us to face the fact that our cause is hopeless if (1) we do not learn to express our problems and our interests in terms of the common good, and (2) if we do not find or develop the machinery for communicating our thoughts to the millions of Americans who have no way of hearing what we have to say.

This need to reach out for the leadership of white people as well as Negroes places a great responsibility upon Negro leaders. Unfortunately on the basis of training and experience most of our accepted leaders are poorly prepared for such an undertaking. None of them, including A. P. Randolph, who has been nurtured in an all-Negro union, has a first-hand knowledge of the problems involved in welding Negro and white people together in a common cause. However, there are a few Negro leaders in mixed white and Negro unions who are now fast gaining experience in this type of leadership.

JUL 9 1942

Daily World

ATLANTA, GA.

AUG 18 1942

Navy Shows Way In Hiring Negroes

WASHINGTON—(SNS)—The Navy Department, one of the country's largest employers of Negro civilian labor, this week issued a statement governing the labor relations of the entire Naval establishment.

At the same time, the Navy Department announced that representatives of labor from each of the Navy Yards and shore establishments would be invited to meet with the Secretary of the Navy and the Commander in Chief of the United States Fleet for discussions of methods of cooperation on October 1, 1942, and at intervals thereafter for the duration of the war.

These discussions will affect thousands of technical, skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled Negro workers now employed in Navy Yards throughout the country. In September, 1941, more than 13,400 Negroes were employed in those capacities in U. S. Navy Yards. This number represented an increase of more than 100 per cent over the 5,934 skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled Negro workers employed in September, 1940.

In the 11-month period following the September, 1941, breakdown of racial employment. The hiring of Negroes in Naval establishments has increased steadily, and the next annual breakdown is expected to show a substantial increase of Negro employees over the 13,401 listed last year.

SIGNED BY KNOX

The labor relations statement has been signed-by-Secretry-of the Navy Frank Knox; Under Secretary of the Navy, James V. Forrestal; Assistant Secretary of the Navy Ralph A. Bard; Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Air Artemus L. Gates; Admiral Ernest J. King, U.S.N., Commander in Chief, United States Fleet; Vice Admiral F. J. Horne, U.S.N., Vice Chief of Naval Operations; Vice Admiral S. M Robinson, U.S.N., Chief of the Office of Procurement and Meterial, and Rear Admiral C. W. Fisher, U.S.N., Director of Shore Esteblishments Division.

The text of the statement follows:

"The United States Navy is the largest single employer of labor in this country if not in the world The Navy is an integral port of the United States Government. It is the Navy of the farmer, the businessman, the banker, and it is the Navy of labor of all types and categories: in short, it is the Navy of all of the people of the United States. As such, all men and women working for the Navy are working for and serving, particularly in wartime, one of the most vital and necessary institutions of their own government, and their ouw country—a fighting unit organized and now being developed to the maximum degree solely for the purpose of protecting and safeguarding not only the homes, families, and property of all of the people, including all those working for the Navy but, also, fighting for the preservation of all the principles, rights, and privileges now enjoyed by all the people of this country, again including labor which supports the huge program of the Navy.

"This reasoning brings us to the conclusion that the aims, ambitions, plans, and hopes of the Navy are identical with those of the vast majority of the men and women who work for the Navy, and that the Navy and its employes are engaged and joined in a common cause and a common objective which can be accieved to the fullest degree only by wholehearted cooperation between those responsible for the operation of the Navy in all stages of management, and those who labor to produce the ships, guns, planes, and ammunition so vital to its program.

"We are convinced beyond any doubt that the great majority of workers in our Navy Yards, Ordnance Plants, and other industrial shore establishments of the Navy, are just as interested in production and in progress in all directions towards winning this war, as are those of us in charge of the operations of the Navy in Washington or on the high seas.

ATTAIN MEASURE

"We feel that there should be no misunderstanding, no controversies, and no inequities which cannot be solved by management and production workers of the Navy working closely and harmoniously together to help win this war.

"It is apparent that we have not yet attained that measure of cooperation which is possible and vital in this all out war, and we in the management end of the Navy admit our share of the responsibility for this lack of unity and express our determination with the cooperation of labor to rectify this situation in every way possible.

"We expect all representatives of Navy management to meet at all times representatives of labor on an all out basis of openmindedness, friendship, tolerance, and mutual good will. We believe such a working policy carried on by all concerned, will further enhance the morale of our Naval Establishments and we call upon all in authority, in all levels of management, and upon labor spokesmen, and labor itself, to adapt its thinking, its actions, and its sentiments, to the end that the utmost cooperation may exist in all of the relationships within the Navy family; all of whom should be engaged now in helping to make the Navy the most effective and powerful weapon possible for the service of our country in this, the most difficult hour of its history.

"In furtherance of this program, the Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox, and the Commander in Chief United States Fleet, Admiral Ernest J. King, will invite representatives of labor from each of the Navy Yards, and other industrial Shore Establishments, to meet with them and other ranking officers of the Navy in Washington for a conference on October 1, 1932, at which ways and means of further implementing this program of cooperation will be discussed. It is expected that approximately 250 such representatives to be selected by labor as hereafter to be determined, will be invited to attend this meeting. It is also planned to hold such a meeting at approximately four month intervals throughout the period of the war.

"There is no propaganda idea about this program and buncombe of any nature. The Navy family must be welded together as never before in order to meet this terrific war menace the extent of which our people now must realize and prepare to meet with all the strength, courage and sacrifice we possess if we are to win out.

"This program does not mean higher wages, shorter hours of work, or less discipline; it means closer cooperation, more understanding of each other's problems, more friendliness in our relationships, and undoubedly greater sacrifice on the part of all of us. This is a sincere attempt to bring together in a harmonious unit all men and women of the Navy family for the sole purpose of winning this war and achieving victory for our country an dour common cause."

Argus

St. Louis, Missour

AUG 14 1942

EXPECT 2,500 AT K.C. MEET

Now Or Never Is Attitude

Group To Deal With Current Issues

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—Twenty-five hundred men, employed by six different railroad companies, will be represented in national convention which will convene at YMCA, Kansas City, Mo., Aug. 27th and 28th.

According to the National Brotherhood official, the Brotherhood of Trainmen, Brakemen, Porters, Switchmen, Firemen and Porters, Inc., having become merged and are independent standard railroad labor unions not affiliated with either the A. F. of L., or the C. I. O., it has been found that the latter organizations offered no substantial protection for colored railroad, trainmen, brakemen, porters, switchmen, firemen and other railroad groups of the Negro race.

Seek Man Power

Coffey says the need for such a National Convention at this time is "inexpressibly imperative in order to formulate plans either for cooperation or combination or both". He added: "A united front is what we need in our common problems. We can do much together in spirit and action, while we can do but little alone or singly." Plans will be formulated to protect train porters positions which are now being taken over by white brakemen on southwestern railroads and southern and southwestern railroad. Plans will also be made for the selection of representatives in all western, southwestern, southeastern and southern states, and on all railroads wherever Negroes are employed to form committees on Railroad Manpower to work jointly with the President's committee on Fair Employment Practices, which will convene a national hearing in the City of Chicago, to go into and make investgation into discriminatory practices of the railroad companies against Negro labor, and to call upon the government to insist that railroads abide by President's Executive Order 8802, to the end that the railroads abolish such practices of discrimination against Negro labor in the hiring and promotion of Negro employees in the interest of mobilizing the nation's full manpower for winning the war.

St. Louisan In Group

During the session, all national officers will be elected as the term of office of those now heading the Brotherhood ends in August. The list of executive board and representatives as announced by President Steve Bennett, who are expected to attend this annual convention are: Vernon C. Coffey, Director-General Attorney, L. H. Hoyl, Director-General Chairman both of Kansas City, L. W. Fairchild, Director, Poplar Bluff, Mo., S. L. Howard, Director, Memphis, Tenn., John Benion, Director of Organizations, St. Louis, Mo., P. Moppin, Ass't. to Gen'l President, St. Louis, Mo., R. L. Pettis, Vice President, St. Louis, Mo., Ira Saville, Vice President, Little Rock, Ark., William Eldridge, Vice President, Omaha, Nebr., Harold McPherson, Ass't. to Gen'l President, Springfield, Mo., Omak Ezell, Vice President, Mobile, Ala., Henry T. Kurn, Vice President, Hugo, Okla., W. B. Mitchell, Vice President, Oklahoma City, Okla., Hurley Bibbs, Vice President, Valley Park, Mo., B. O. Crayne, Vice President, Kansas City, Mo., George Hiram, Vice President, Oklahoma City, Okla., Henry Winston, Vice President, Springfield, Mo., Clinton Messengale, General Treasurer, Springfield, Mo., U. V. Weathers, Ass't Director or Organ, St. Louis, Mo., Frank Gilliam, Vice President, New Orleans, La., Leroy A. Tease, General Secretary, Oklahoma City, Okla., J. F. Price Secretary of Missouri Pacific System and representatives from all local lodges.

35g-1942

GENERAL

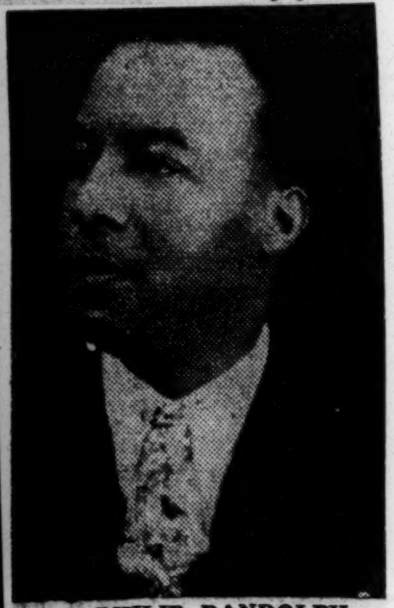
New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Brotherhood Of Sleeping Car Porters Wins 10 Cents An Hour Pay Increase For Porters

JAN 3 - 1942

In the international offices of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters in New York City, A. Philip Randolph, international president, announced that the organization had signed an agreement with the Pullman Company for an increase in pay of ten cents an hour or twenty four dollars a month.

This will represent an increase of over two million dollars for the Pullman porters, maids, attendants, and bus boys in the Pullman service. This group of workers will also receive $21.60 a month for three months of back pay extending from September to December 1st, observed Mr. Randolph.



A. PHILIP RANDOLPH

Wage increases were also secured by the Brotherhood for train porters who are members of the organization. representing $22.80 per month with 7½ percent back pay extending from September to December 1st.

JAN 3 - 1942

The head of the porters organization pointed out that various carriers with which the Brotherhood holds contracts are being signed up rather rapidly for increases in pay ranging from ten cents for the non-operating group, including chair car, parlor car, coach and buffet porters, with the back pay of nine cents an hour; also including train porters in the operating group at nine and one-half cents wage increase with the seven and one-half percent back pay of a three month period.

It is estimated that the increase for the members of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters will run much above 2½ million dollars, stated Randolph. Mr. Randolph points to this notable achievement of collective bargaining for colored workers by the Brotherhood as indicative of a new era in the economic life of Negro workers in America.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

7TH MILLION EARMARKED AS BACK SALARIES

JAN 17 1942

Contracts For 1942 Are Concluded With All Class A Roads

Richard W. Smith, secretary-treasurer of the Joint Council of Dining Car Employees announced this week that the Joint Council and its affiliated locals had concluded contracts with Class A railroads all over the nation, adding $6.000.000 annually to the wages of dining car employees and approximately $1,000,000 dollars in back pay.

Smith said the fight for wage increase started in June and soon thereafter dining car workers unanimously threatened to strike unless wage increases were granted.

Solon C. Bell, chairman of the Joint council, and Smith covered the nation, assisting the various locals with their wage fight. Bell stated that this is the first time dining car employees on many railroads have been granted the same increase as other railroad workers when an increase was secured by the workers.

Smith further stated that many white dining car employees who had refused to join locals affiliated with the Joint Council and had joined the Order of Railway Conductors did not receive as much as dining car employees represented by the Joint Council, neither did they receive back pay to the amount received by dining car workers represented by the Joint Council.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

LEGAL BED-ROCKS

RACE NEEDS LEGAL RIGHTS TO BREAK JIM CROW PRACTICES

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

JAN 24 1942

DR. FRANK HORNE of the United States Housing Authority, mailed me a release containing material which to my mind was of extreme importance. I have been troubled for a long time by our Negro representatives acting on executive orders or through administrative agencies who have consistently been very reticent to have a judicial review of their behavior and agency or the executive order authorizing their behavior or agency. When the Committee for Fair Employment Practice was first appointed a lot of the boys objected to Earl Dickerson's suggestion that a fight should be made to obtain penalty clauses for violations of the President's Executive Order for non-discrimination in industry. The objection was based upon the fact that Dickerson had stated that the Committee had no power to enforce its findings. These people, and incidentally they were quite sincere in their feelings, stated that Dickerson should never have taken this position as employers did not necessarily know that the Committee did not have power.

Mr. Cayton

JAN 24 1942

AIDE ADVISES AGAINST TEST

Of course, this may have been true in some instances and with small employers. I have always felt however that the large concerns were well aware of the powers of the Committee and that it was best for Negroes to know (as the statement goes) "in front" just where they stood.

RECENTLY I talked to one of the Negro assistants in the USHA and he intimated that the entire procedure of writing in non-discriminatory clauses in contracts for constructing housing projects might not have legal standing and it would be best to not subject it to judicial review. This official adopted the point of view that their "administrative procedures" were sufficient to cope with most any recalcitrant employer who refused, in violation of his contractual obligation, to hire Negroes.

SEE RESULTS FROM JUDICIAL REVIEW

On two previous occasions this column has raised serious question about the refusal of the Contractors and Sub-Contractors of the Carr Square Village in St. Louis to hire skilled Negro workers in accordance with their percentage of the general population of that city. Dr. Horne and the other Negro members of the USHA, in compliance with the general policy of their agency, relied upon "administrative techniques" to try to straighten the situation out but finally after months of delay, as the project was nearing completion, Negroes in St. Louis became exasperated and instituted a suit against the contractor and the USHA.

JAN 24 1942

THIS SUIT has tended to clarify a very moot question and certainly has made it possible for the USHA to clarify their relationship with the Local Housing Authorities. Previously it had not been known whether (1) the USHA or the Local Housing Authority was supposed to enforce these non-discriminatory clauses, or (2) whether the non-discriminatory clauses had any bearing in court, or (3) whether the party responsible for compliance could be forced by the courts to carry them out. My feeling that a court test was valuable has been justified in the results which have come, so far, from the action of these St Louis civic leaders.

STRAUS SPEAKS

Although still clinging to the rather futile hope that they could straighten out these difficulties by administrative procedure,—that is good Negroes getting together with good white folks—Nathan Straus late administrator of the USHA has made a pretty forthright statement in an affidavit submitted to the Circuit Court in St. Louis.

Straus stated that:

The USHA has a right to enforce the non-discrimination clause of the contracts requiring the hiring of Negroes on the construction jobs.

That the USHA knew that such discrimination existed and was willing to join with the plaintiff (that is, the Negroes in St. Louis) so that if they won the case and compelled the contractors to hire Negroes, it would set a precedent to be used in other localities.

To my mind, this is a noteworthy step forward for the Negro in unravelling that skein of administrative red tape. Although he pulled his punches just a little, nevertheless, Straus' statement has clarified to an extent the legal responsibilities of the contracting parties in loans which occurred between the USHA and the various Local Housing Authorities. It will set a precedent which can be followed in future cases, and, it is to be hoped, such cases will continue to come before local courts until the whole situation is clarified. Of course, I know to what extent administrators and agencies have been dependent upon "administrative procedures." Ofttimes, I will admit, they bear fruit, but in all these cases the Negro has got to be pretty hard-boiled and find out on just what legal "bed rock" he stands. That being determined, he can then conciliate, arbitrate, coerce, cajole, or do anything else to try to get concession before bringing legal action. But it is fundamental that he has legal action which he can take.

COMMENDS HORNE ON FINE WORK

JAN 24 1942

I am glad to be able to write this as I welcome an opportunity to give Dr. Frank Horne a little pat on the back for the excellent work he has been doing. I am afraid that some weeks ago I used him as a guinea pig to illustrate the tough spot which "Negro advisers to" were put in by the administrators. Also, in line with my editor's suggestion (P. L. in "The Horizon") I think that we should express a vote of thanks to Nathan Straus, for of all administrators in the Federal agencies he has been the fairest even though I did not at all times agree with his reliance on "administrative procedures."

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

NMU Action

SEAMEN'S UNION TAKES STEPS TO DEFEAT BIAS OF TRAITORIOUS EMPLOYERS

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

JAN 31 1942

THE current peace move between the AFL and the CIO holds the center of the labor stage today. This whole situation has many ramifications for Negro labor. As a matter of fact, I intended to write about it this week but I got side-tracked by a National Maritime Union story which I want to mention while it is still fresh.

This column has stated from time to time that the problem of integrating Negroes into industry was two-fold: that of getting unions to let down their barriers and of forcing employers, who are themselves equally or even more prejudiced, to hire black workers. In this all-out effort there have been numerable instances where production has been sacrified rather than hire Negroes. I don't think it is too strong to say that we cannot win this war—and don't deserve to—if industry needs manpower and refuses to hire available colored workers.

Mr. Cayton

ROOSEVELT RAPS RACIAL BAN

JAN 31 1942

A case which has brought this pointedly to my attention is that of Negro seamen on the east coast. Recently the United States government took over some foreign owned ships among them the SS Kungsholm. The owner sent to the NMU for crews, Joseph Curran, the able, Left Wing president sent 140 men of which 25 were Negroes. On all the Negroes cards the company marked "not acceptable". Curran then got in touch with Admiral Emory S. Land, Chairman of the United States Ma-

A CHICAGO newspaper, in reporting the hearings of the President's Committee on Fair Employment, characterized certain employers, such as the one I described, as "traitors". This is a strong word but I can think of no other which will more adequately describe them. What difference did it make to that employer, especially if the crews were willing to work together. As a matter of fact, if he were a patriotic American he would have been first to preach to his men the necessity of cooperation for national defense in its most vital area, the maintenance of the flow of goods to our allies. A million Negroes should write that man and tell him just what this type of "traitorous" behavior will do to wreck the unity which has been achieved in our war effort.

JAN 31 194

MUST WAGE FIGHT FROM WITHIN

As a postscript I want to point out that these Left Wing unions, with which I may have other quarrels, are leading the way in breaking down industrial racial barriers. The only way the Negro is going to get a break from the entire organized labor movement is to get into every union that he can and fight within that union for full equality.

IN THIS case, the leadership as well as the rank and file are ideologically dedicated to a program of racial equality. Other fights, for full participation for Negro workers such as that in the United Automobile Workers, have still to be won.

ritime Commission, who refused to state what action the government was going to take.

THIS, mind you, in spite of the President's Executive Order specifying that there would be no discrimination against Negroes in the defense industry. President Roosevelt was wired and answered by letter with a statement that race, color or creed should be no barrier to participation in the war time effort. This got the Negro sailors jobs.

LATER, another call came into the NMU hiring office, this time from the Moore-McCormick Lines and four able-bodied Negro seamen were sent from the union along with the rest of the crew. They, too, were at first refused. Then the union got in touch with Robert C. Lee, executive vice-president of the Line, who stated that he had no policy of discrimination and would be willing to hire Negroes but he did not want any "checkerboard" that is, mixed black and white crews.

BIAS EMPLOYERS ARE TRAITORS

JAN 31 19

This same hackneyed excuse that white men were not willing to work with Negroes was again dragged out by this company official to justify his action. Of course, in this instance he was stymied by the fact that the demand for the hiring of Negro seamen came from the workers themselves through their union. But still he clung on to the old excuse that black and white men couldn't work together.

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

WAR IS HURTING WAITERS ON DINING CARS OF E. COAST

"Streamline Trains Move In to Displace Pullman Cars and Their Many Workers

JAN 30 1942

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22 (By Rienzi B. Lemus for ANP)—One of war's first effects is to bring to a close the good days when Washington was Mecca for dining car workers—itinerant and sundry—who found warmth and profitable employment in dining car service for the Florida winter seasons. Up to now acute demands so pressed supply until many a dishwasher has posed in the role of chef, and gotten away with it—for the duration.

Bulk of that train business has been handled between New York and Florida resort points by the Atlantic Coast Line railroad. Its year-round cooks-waiters' personnel was about 180. In winter it jumped to 800; but on Jan. 1 of this year the total was 23 crews—230 persons—less than on corresponding days of the years gone by. This is war.

Leading season trains on the "Coast Line" have been the Florida special and The Miamian, both all-Pullman car fliers. The number and type of their patrons made them preferable runs for the waiters and porters. On Jan. 10 the Miamian was suddenly withdrawn from service, at which time in yesteryears it would be just gathering momentum at the season's outset, as it was usually operated steadily from December to June. Its displaced crews have to go elsewhere, displacing others, who, in turn will continue the processes of displacement in the order of seniority until those last displaced will remain so. War.

Of course, say some, "the streamliners kilt the Miamian"—and there's something in that, too: of mostly deluxe coaches, Diesel powered, and less carfare, streamliners have taken much patronage from the Pullmans. But what's a streamliner to war? Nothing! Its day will not be long coming, too. Our defense requirements are paramount, innumerable, shall deprive us of things heretofore indispensable and leave us without choice of buying defense savings stamps and bonds. This is war, almost endless war.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Amount May Be Added to Pay

MAR 14 1942

Mr. Justice Black With Murphy, Douglas Vote Against Decision

MAR 14 1942

WASHINGTON (ANP)—In a decision by the Supreme Court, handed down Monday, red caps' tips are pay under the Wage-Hour Law.

In a five-to-three decision, the Court held that employers of porters may count tips in complying with the minimum wage provisions. The decisions came in test cases which involved porters at Jacksonville and Dallas railroad terminals.

MAR 14 1942

With Justice Reed delivering the opinion of the Court, the dissenting Justices included Black, with Douglas and Murphy concurring. Justice Roberts did not take part in the consideration or decision of the case.

Said Justice Black in his opinion: "I think the judgments should be reversed. It appears to me that the question in these cases is upon whom does the statute impose the duty of paying a minimum wage, the employer or someone else? There is no ambiguity in the Congressional mandate that 'every employer shall pay to each of his employes . . . wages . . . not less than 30 cents an hour.' I am unable to agree that tips to red caps by travellers are 'wages' paid to the red caps by the railroad.

"The employers here could have openly charged a fee for the services performed by red caps. It appears that they have now adopted such a system. It is said that there is no practical difference between a system under which the railroads openly impose a charge on the public and one under which the red caps accept from travellers so-called tips, treated by the railroad as part of the red caps' wages. Generally the traveller who pays a railroad charge knows he is paying it to the railroad.

MAR 14 1942

"One who gives a red cap a tip does not necessarily know that he is thereby helping the railroad to discharge its statutory duty of paying a minimum wage to its employes. The tip-paying public is entitled to know whom it tips, the red cap or the railroad.

"A plan like that before us, which constantly diverts tips from employes for whom the giver intended them, to employers for whom the giver did not intend them and to whom any kind of tip doubtlessly would not have been voluntarily given, seems to me to contain an element of deception.

"And I think that an interpretation of the FLSA which permits employers to benefit from such a plan does not according with the meaning of the language used by Congress."

MAR 14 1942

The complainants were C. L. Williams vs. the Jacksonville Terminal Company, and A. J. Pickett against the Union Terminal Company of Dallas.

GENERAL

35g-1942

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Democracy or Selfishness

OCT 17 1941

In our democracy the citizen is the defender of his rights. Otherwise America would repeat the old master and man system of other forms of government. There was both logic and precedent when the New Deal through the Wagner Labor Act gave organized labor standing in law. At the close of the Civil war, the emancipated slave had been given citizenship in order to save for himself his freedom and his labor.

But all is not well, now that the workers bargain collectively. The commonest thing in the news of the day is labor trouble. Instead of legal standing for organized workers producing peace, we have more strikes than in any time during the country's history, though labor's new standing was approved by a vast majority in 1936 and by the selection of Franklin D. Roosevelt for a third term in 1940.

Organized labor is still not satisfied with the standing in the law it has with the approval of the people. It is on the march for closed shop, for a monopoly on labor. The right to work and to collective bargaining in hand, it seeks a dictatorship over industry.

The American people, appalled by the purposes of the Nazis and their threat to democracy, have undertaken the greatest tax load in the nation's history. They accept without complaint the draft. They stand ready to make any further sacrifices for the defense of freedom. They are single minded about defense. That is why they are blind to the groups of workers engaged in essential tasks who put their union before their country!

OCT 17 1941

The Wagner Labor Act was passed when the old theory of the individual's rights prevailed among the American people. We believed that the majority should rule. At the same time we were convinced that every man had certain inalienable rights, such as life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, which even the majority dare not touch. The Bill of Rights was in the Constitution. We all respected rights to the point that even the majority did not attempt to take from the minority its equal enjoyment of benefits. Now all of that is changed. The Bill of Rights is dead. The closed shop is in the saddle. It is being applied in plant after plant ruthlessly throughout industry.

It is time that the American people see what a Frankenstein they have created. This drive which organized labor is making is neither Republican nor Democratic. It is not New Deal, it is not American. The only parallel to it is the system which Hitler has created. While we are busy preparing defense against his attack from abroad, this home grown threat is killing freedom and democracy from within. It is power applied without restraint, a boiler without a governor that will blow up in time.

OCT 17 1941

Up until this upheaval of society, the minority of Americans had no fear of the majority. Both sides took it for granted that whatever was America's was to be shared. Now comes this movement begun with the best of motives but perverted to selfishness. Capital robbed the workers and it was a shame. Now workers rob the workers.

Workers by the thousands use this time of national emergency in order to establish their union's jurisdiction, even to compel business to collect union dues. The government heard their cry for justice. Now they are deaf to freedom's need and stop production in ships, tanks, planes and ammunition wherever a show of power serves their union purposes. The creature which the Wagner Act brought into being less than a decade ago is now master of the nation.

One hope remains, otherwise disaster. Smart men see already that any monopoly on work by organized labor automatically creates enemies. If not for the principle of an individual's inalienable rights which has been the distinguishing accomplishment of our America, then for the practical advantage of avoiding strife, unions should speak for all workers, and offer welcome to all workers. We used to do that in America. Republicans in office took for granted that Democrats should eat. Equally possible and reasonable is it that organized workers shall permit those outside to live. If not, the United States follows in the footstep of Nazi Germany, from which may Providence save us!

Events are moving fast. Soon the day for choosing will be past. Our country must return to the state of mind where rights are not set aside by might, or democracy will die!

OCT 17 1941

America's Needs First

Men generally acknowledge that team work is the key to successful marriage or profitable business, but somehow or other they do not see that mutual responsibility is the one and only way to good community life. Take the matter of race relations: We Negroes are quick to say "If only the whites would do the right things." The truth is that both whites and blacks are wrong so long as we do not each do his best for all. One can make excuse, but excuse is not performance. Race relations are not what they should be.

Let's set our own house in order first. Time enough after that to be blaming the other fellow. It is far too easy to point out what our neighbors should do than to do our own duty! And so satisfying too! The present crisis brought on by affairs abroad is an ideal time for making demands, say those Negroes who are direct actionists for "our rights." But let's change our procedure and during this emergency concentrate on those things which are good for both races, rather than on correcting evils that affect us particularly. During this period when every man of sense knows that team work is essential, let's go after team objectives. We waited on our special needs in all the years up to now. We are due justice, but we can wait a bit longer while with shoulder to the nation's wheel, we try to save freedom and democracy. Then with them saved, and our right to share them established, we will find the rest of our task easy because whites accustomed to cooperating with us now, will meet us half way then.

OCT 17 1941

Note carefully that we do not suggest dropping the fight. What we urge is immediate needs first. That is logical and that is practical. We cannot get all we want at once, so let's concentrate on what we can get easiest. After that, with a favorable atmosphere created, we can go on to other objectives.

No one respects those Negroes who for self interest or cowardice, are willing to let injustices stand. But the opposite course is not 100 per cent right because they are 100 per cent wrong. Community life is an adjustment in which we Negroes are due to bend as much as our neighbors. We are a wonderful people, free of envy and meanness, dependable and industrious. What we lack will be accorded us when we are better understood. Our strategy now is to use the national emergency to show off our good points. Going with the current we will make headway fast. Putting a price on our aid to democracy, we may wrest a few concessions, but we will get them only to be scorned and spurned later.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Opportunities Open To Race In 3 States

APR 4 - 1942

Workers Needed In California, N. Y., New Jersey

APR 4 - 1942

NEW YORK—[illegible]—Three types of job opportunities of special interest to Negroes were announced by the NAACP this week.

From Salinas, California, has come a request through the local branch of the NAACP from the United States Employment Service for that district to obtain two thousand Negroes to work at the cultivation of lettuce in that area which is one of the largest lettuce-producing regions in the country. Those interested should write directly to William Greenwell, president, Salinas NAACP, 232 Front Street, Salinas, Calif.

357

Men must be single draft deferred and of good report. Wages are 45 cents an hour. Board and room will be furnished for 75 to 85 cents per day during the harvest season which lasts until December 15 to 20.

APR 4

From the New York State Council of the Committee on Discrimination in Employment comes the announcement that the Bethlehem Steel Company is in dire need of ship-fitters, electricians, welders, steel-workers, sheet-metal workers, coppersmiths, riverters, riverter-heaters and all other necessary shipbuilding crafts. The company will hire men regardless of race creed or color if they are qualified. Its hiring offices are at First avenue and 57th street, Brooklyn; First avenue and 29th street, Brooklyn; and Mariner's Harbor, Staten Island, N.Y.

Civilian personnel is desired at the Raritan Arsenal, Metuchen, New Jersey. Approximately five hundred male laborers are needed. They will be paid $4.88 per day with time and a half for overtime. Applicants may write or go to the Personnel Office, Raritan Arsenal, Metuchen, New Jersey.

Memphis, Tenn., Com'rcial Appeal
March 31, 1942

Negroes Plan Celebration

Plans have been completed for the Colored Tennessee Cosmetologists Inc. national defense program celebration at the Georgia Theater, at Mississippi and Georgia next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Economy will be the theme of the opening day, morale the second and health the last. Judge Camille Kelley will be principal speaker of the second day.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Tenth of All Rail Employees Colored Men

Retirement Board Records Show They Get Lower Salaries

MAY 2 - 1942

NEW YORK—[illegible]—Colored men constituted 9.6 per cent of all the employees in active railroad service in 1940, according to the reports of the Labor Research Association's summary of statistics released by the Railroad Retirement Board.

Of the 1,666,161 workers whose wages during 1940 were reported to the board, 159,608 were colored males. Class 1 railroads employed 127,674 of them and the Pullman Company, 11,517.

359

"In addition, the Class 1 switching and terminal companies, the smaller switching and terminal companies, the Railway Express Agency, and Class 2 and 3 railroads each reported between 4,000 and 5,000 colored male employees," the board's annual report states.

In Low-Wage Brackets

On Class 1 railroads, colored persons were employed mainly as maintenance-of-way laborers, shop and stores laborers and freight handlers. There were also large numbers employed as janitors and cleaners, helpers in maintenance of equipment and stores, chefs and cooks, waiters and kitchen helpers and train attendants.

Average compensation of colored workers in 1940 was substantially lower than the earnings of other employees with an equal amount of service, the report found.

For employees with twelve months of service on Class 1 railroads, colored extra-gang men averaged only $768 for the year compared with $1,025 for other extra-gang men; colored employees in other maintenance-of-way labor jobs averaged $763 for the year compared with $987 for whites;

MAY 2 - 1942

Colored shop laborers averaged $1,042 and whites, $1,208; colored freight handlers $1,041 compared with $1,286 for whites.

On Job Longer, Get Less Pay

Says the report:

"The difference in levels of compensation is apparently not traceable to the fact that colored employees include a larger proportion of casual or short-time workers in the occupation.

"On the contrary, the figures clearly show that among colored employees the percentage of employees with twelve months of service was higher than among other employees in the same occupational group.

"Also among employees with less than twelve months of service, colored males were on the average credited with a somewhat larger amount of service than the white workers."

For example, colored freight handlers with 4.3 months of average service in 1940 had annual compensation of only $182 against $225 for other freight handlers with an average of only 3.8 months' service.

The Pullman Company in 1940 employed 7,997 porters and only 3,520 other colored males. Colored workers accounted for 94 per cent of all train attendants and their average compensation was $1,052 in 11.2 months of service in 1940.

MAY 2 - 1942

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

THE WAGE-HOUR LAW AND REDCAPS

SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES in earnings, reduction in hours of work, and improved working conditions for Redcaps employed by railroads and railroad terminals resulted during the first three years of the Fair Labor Standards Act, according to a report by the Wage Hour Division of the U. S. Department of Labor, released by the Division's research and Statistics Branch.

MAY 2 - 1942

Based on 5250 pages of transcript of sworn testimony by 144 witnesses and upon hundreds of exhibits, the analysis is a finding of fact which does not draw any conclusions regarding the controversial points at issue. These points are (1) whether existing practices surrounding the employment of Redcaps violate the letter or spirit of the Fair Labor Standards Act, (2) whether the practises can be regulated under existing provisions of the Act, and (3) whether amendments to the Act are necessary.

359

The report traces the evolution of Redcaps from tip to wage status. Before the Wage-Hour Law became effective, the analysis shows, about 70 percent of the nation's 4,500 Redcaps had worked for tips only. When the law went into effect, requiring payment of 25 cents an hour as a minimum wage during the first year, railroads and railway terminal companies generally adopted the policy of counting tips received by Redcaps as wages. Redcaps were required to account for all tips received, with employers agreeing to make good any difference between the amounts so received and the minimum wage to which th Redcaps were entitled.

MAY 2 - 1942

This system, known as the "Accounting and Guarantee Plan," was not satisfactry to Redcap unions—the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks and the United Transport Service Employees of America. The railroads, the unions and the Wage and Hour Division soon became involved in discussions, complaint, and litigation relative to the plan. The investigation indicated that in many cases Redcaps, because of fear of discharge for failure to report tips in an amount equal to the minimum requirement of the Wage and Hour Law, falsified their reports. The United States Supreme Court, in March, 1942, held that tips could be counted as wages.

But during 1940, the railroads and terminals generally abandoned the "Accounting and Guaranteeing Plan" and substituted the 10-cent-a-bag system, which is now used. Under this plan Redcaps are employed on a salary basis and are required to collect 10 cents from the passengers for each bag carried, turning the proceeds over to the employers.

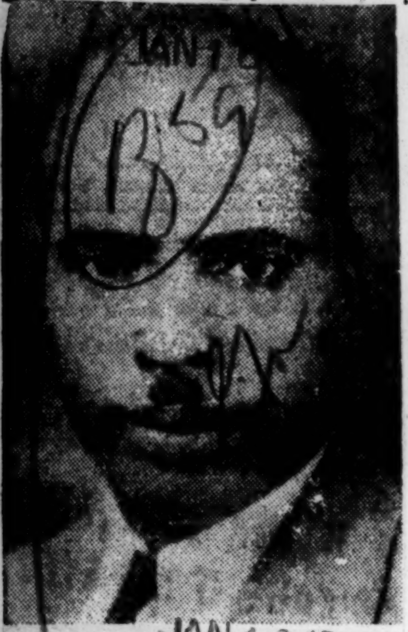
Hourly earnings for Redcaps, according to the analysis, increased from about 30 cents to more than 40 cents between 1938 and 1941. This raise was accompanied by increased total weekly earnings and a general reduction in the week from about 56 hours to 48 hours, on a six-day schedule rather than the former seven-day week.

Employment of Redcaps decreased by 5 percent over the period of the Act from 4486 to 4264. But in the far West, where Redcaps had for many years received salaries in addition to tips, employment increased.

Under the new system, there has been less and less personalized service given to passengers, and "mass production" systems have been developed to have Redcaps handle several passengers at once.

Since the labor unions are likely to take credit for this improvement in the status of the Redcap, we thought we would publish the above memorandum from the Department of Labor so that these Redcaps may know to whom the credit is due.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.



JAN 1 6 1942

REPRESENTATIVE—

S. J. Phillips, special representative for the Nehi Corporation in the Negro markets of America, is in Kansas City, supervising a campaign for Royal Crown Cola. Mr. Phillips states that during the past year the Booker T. Washington Sales Agency has made more than 2,000,000 friends for Royal Crown Cola. Mr. Phillips' work carries him all over America. He says that everywhere Negroes are very proud of the fine contribution that the makers of Royal Crown Cola are making to Negro history by helping to keep alive Negro music in all of its original charm and beauty. Mr. Phillips is accompanied by the celebrated "Sons of the South," national favorites over the air waves and on the concert stage.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

No Race Workers In Center Building

JAN 23 1942

Construction of a USO center for colored soldiers, is now underway on the front campus of Booker T. Washington high school, but no colored mechanics will be allowed to work on the project, the Atlanta Daily WORLD was informed Thursday night.

A. V. Jett, business agent of B. M. & P. I. U. of America, local No 9, said he gathered this information from an interview with the superintendent of construction of the Capitol Construction Company of 157 Cain Street, NW.

Mr. Jett's statement to the WORLD follows:

JAN 23 1942

"I happened by the Washington high school and saw a grading shovel at work. I knew that the USO center for colored soldiers was to be erected on that spot. I immediately investigated and sought employment for Negro mechanics after learning that Capitol Construction Co., of 157 Cain Street, NW, were the builders.

"I identified myself to the superintendent of construction in charge and asked him for the mason work for my union. He informed me that the 'bricklayers in charge had been selected and would report on the job by the first of next week.'

"I asked him if his company would use any colored mechanics. His answer was 'No.'

"I merely state these facts to show the type of democracy we support.

JAN 23 1942

"We realize that the project is to be used by colored soldiers and finally become the property of the high school.

"We also realize that Negro Atlanta made large contributions to the USO and that the presence of colored skilled mechanics would have a moral influence and be an inspiration to some of the hundreds of boys who will watch the structure built.

"It is for that reason I urge you to protest with us the attitude of the Capitol Construction Company."

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Work or Fight Drive Pushed

MAR 7 - 1942

Mayor Charles L. Bowden's "work or fight" edict continued to produce results yesterday.

Half a dozen Negroes had been docketed by police last night and charged with loitering because they could not show they were employed in gainful jobs and because they were not in a service uniform.

MAR 7 - 1942

Friday morning in the court of Recorder George M. Nottingham five other Negroes, arrested for loitering, were sentenced to serve 60 days each in city stockade or to pay fines of $50 apiece.

Mobile, Ala. Press
March 11, 1942

Negroes Are Banned From Georgia CCC

ATLANTA, March 11.—(AP)—Negroes have been banned from enlisting in the civilian conservation corps in Georgia until further notice by order of federal headquarters, Charles A. Coffin, CCC supervisor of the state welfare department, said.

The negro camps at Waynesville and Royston will be disbanded, Coffin said, and the enrollees, about 300, probably transferred to a CCC camp engaged in war activities. There are about 1,200 negro enrollees in eight camps at present, Coffin said yesterday.

Coffin declared the ban on negro enrollment was part of the CCC policy of discontinuing camps not actively participating in war work.

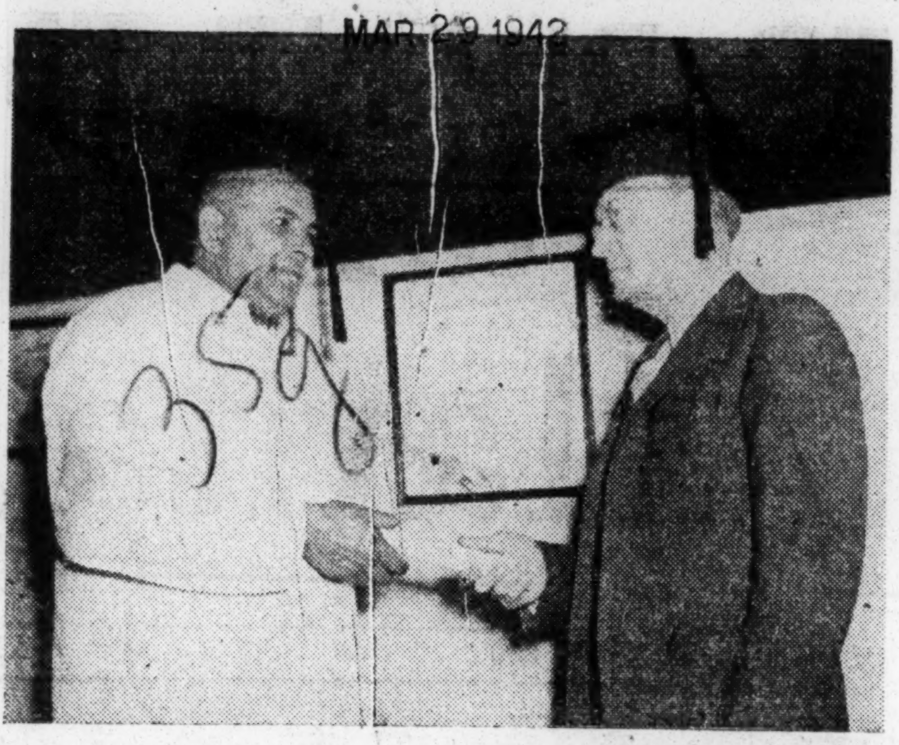
The prohibition on negroes, said Coffin in a statement, will "be welcomed by the farmers of the state because of the acute shortage of farm labor."

The March quota for white enrollees in the state is 935.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Griffin Given Merit Award

MAR 29 1942



J. F. Griffin, president and founder of GRIFFIN BARBER COLLEGE, receives coveted Accredited Barber and Beauty Science diploma from A. Luberger, A.B.B.S. instructor for the Associated Master Barbers of America. Mr. Griffin is a 36-year veteran in the barbering profession in Atlanta.

MAR 29 1942

To qualify for the diploma, equipping and authorizing him to set up classes for advanced graduates in barber and beauty science, all of whom must be members of the Associated Master Barbers of America, Mr. Griffin had to do a thesis on Anatomy (muscles, nerves, bones), Histology of the Skin and Hair, Electricity, Circulation, Digestion, Light Therapy, Sanitation, Hygiene, Facial and Scalp Treatments, as well as Ethics and Salesmanship.

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

ROYAL CROWN COLA FIRM IS SEEKING TALENTED SINGERS

APR 17 1942

S. J. Phillips, National Representative for the Nehi Corporation in the Negro Markets of America, announces that this Corporation is sponsoring in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, a special hunt for Negro Talent!

APR 17 1942

There is, according to a request made by Booking Agents of New York City, a large demand right now for Negro talent, especially female talent. Because of economic and other reasons, much talent among Negroes never reaches its highest development.

The "Talent Hunt," sponsored by the Makers of Royal Crown Cola will give the talented Negroes of this race, the opportunity to get free audition, and if any unusual talent is found, this talent will have the opportunity to go to New York for a tryout before Booking Agents of that city. If found desirable, employment and a career will be opened to them.

APR 17 1942

This "Talent Hunt" is the second big contribution that the Royal Crown Cola people have made to our group. For three years, they sponsored the "Sons of the South," outstanding vocal quartet over many of the country's leading radio stations.

When sugar priorities forced the Royal Crown Cola people to curtail their advertising, they paid the expenses of the "Sons of the South" to New York City, paid their salaries, and used their influential connections to bring the "Sons of the South" before the New York public.

APR 17 1942

Beginning with the week of April 10th, these artists are appearing at the Apollo Theatre, New York City. They very recently completed a Pennsylvania engagement.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Pressure Ends In Firing Of Lane's Colored Workers

Management Admits Young Women Were Efficient; Had Resulted In Substantial Business Hike

Some thirty young colored women were dismissed Thursday from their jobs with Lane Drug Stores here, following reported mass and political pressure. The young women had been hired by the Lane management last February following a period of training. The Atlanta Urban League, W. Y. Bell, secretary, and the Community Service Employment Agency, W. G. Shaw, director, assisted in selection of the girls, who reportedly replaced white girls entering defense industry.

The Atlanta management followed the lead of the management in Columbus, Ga., in succumbing to prejudicial pressure for dismissal of the girls.

That Governor Talmadge and the warm political race might have had something to do with the dismissals was indicated in the departing message of the local Lane management, according to three of the fired girls.

GIRLS EFFICIENT

The colored girls had reportedly shown a marked degree of efficienly and courtesy with Lane's resulting in their promotion in position and pay since February. At first the management trained and hired ten girls. These proved so efficient that the number was substantially increased.

First hired as waitresses, some of them advanced from the $9-per week jobs to $13.50-per-week soda dispenser's jobs and to $16-per-week laboratory jobs. All high school graduates and refined of nature, the girls worked hard, they said, being told that the jobs would be permanent. Some even quit other jobs to join the Lane staff.

Hostile feeling in the Atlanta area was first shown about a month ago, the girls said, when police authorities allegedly appeared at a Decatur store and demanded that the girls leave their jobs. The girls were forced to quit work.

AX FALLS IN ATLANTA

Thursday, the ax fell on some thirty in Atlanta. The Lane management was said to have dismissed the girls with reluctance and with lavish promises of help in getting other higher type employment. The management is said to have been complimented time and time again for the promptness, neatness and courtesy of the colored girls. This fact was attested to in letters of reference given the girls upon their departure from the concern.

Into the girls' places are understood to have gone young, untrained white girls. The white girls are siad to have secured application blanks some two weeks ago, but the colored girls were not told of any expected dismissals.

The Lane management could not be reached Thursday night for a statement on the sudden change in their recently enacted employment policy with reference to colored girls.

World-Telegram
New York, N. Y.

Georgia Court Fines Agent Seeking Labor for N. J. Mill

OCT 7 - 1942

OCT 7 - 1942

By the United Press.

CORDELE, Ga., Oct. 7.—Superior Court Judge O. T. Gower fined H. G. Weston $1000 for trying to recruit Georgia Negroes for a New Jersey steel mill, ordered him to be out of Georgia wtihin 24 hours and told him he was getting off light.

Judge Gower told Weston yesterday that if he wasn't out of the state within 24 hours he would be sent to the penitentiary. Future attempts to procure labor, which is scarce here, would be severely punished, he said.

Weston was arrested at the railroad station with 10 Negroes, whom he reportedly was taking to the Special Steels Compounding Corp., in Newark, N. J.

He was formally accused of acting as an emigrant agent without a license, which is punishable by a maximum sentence of 18 months and a $1000 fine. He pleaded guilty and the sentence was suspended on the condition that he get out of the state.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Arrest And Fine Of Labor Agent Protested To D. C.

OCT 9 - 1942

OCT 9 - 1942

NEWARK, N. J.—(SNS)—Samuel B. Freedman, president of the Special Steel Compounding Corporation, wired President Roosevelt, War Production Board Chief Donald Nelson and New Jersey congressmen Wednesday night protesting the arrest and $1,000 fine of the firm's representative in Georgia for soliciting labor.

In Cordele, Ga., Superior Judge O. T. Gower, who imposed the fine, said Harold G. Weston, personnel manager of the New Jersey firm, admitted he hired 11 colored men from nearby farms without obtaining a Georgia license.

Weston was permitted to pay the fine in lieu of a 12-month state prison farm sentence and six months in jail. The law, the court said, has long been on the Georgia statute books but seldom used.

Judge Gower said his action was intended to protect farmers of the Georgia area from suffering a labor shortage.

Freedman said his firm, which processes and prepares scrap for the Crucible Steel Company in nearby Harrison, had been hit by an acute labor shortage and had fallen behind in deliveries.

As a result, he said he sent Floyd Weaver, a Negro foreman, to Georgia to hire workers at the prevailing wages of $30 to $40 a week for scrap sorters. When Weaver reported he had a dozen likely workers, Freedman on Saturday sent Weston to look them over and bring them back if they seemed satisfactory.

OCT 9 - 1942

On Monday, Freedman continued, Weston called that he was under arrest.

OCT 9 - 1942

SUSPENSION SOUGHT

Freedman contacted George S. Pfaus, assistant regional labor representative of the WPB, who wired Judge Gower in Georgia that Weston was innocently ignorant of the Georgia law, that he represented a firm doing important war work, and asked that the court suspend action in the case until the WPB could look into it.

Freedman asserted he personally called Judge Gower and requested him to delay action until the WPB could investigate.

"The WPB isn't running this court," Freedman quoted the Judge as saying.

OCT 9 - 1942

Nothing had been heard from Weaver, Freedman remarked, and he is wondering what became of the Negro foreman.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Lincoln Hotel, Noted for Bias, Hires Girls

FEB 28 1942

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (ANP)—The Abraham Lincoln Hotel here, noted for discriminatory policies which belie its name, has placed colored girl operators on its elevators and promised to hire bell boys.

FEB 28 1942

The hotel discharged all its former colored employees eight years ago. Its record includes refusal of a cup of coffee to a Civil War veteran attended the 1940 GAR Convention and discrimination which brought a suit by Chicago's Alderman Earl B. Dickerson.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Red Caps Lose Pay Suit

CHICAGO—A suit filed in behalf of 1,068 Red Caps in an effort to collect $1,600,000 from eight railroads was dismissed Monday by Federal Judge Philip L. Sullivan.

The International Brotherhood of Red Caps sued the carriers for the sum representing twice the total of back wages they claimed as due to them under the wage-hour law for the period of October, 1938, to April, 1940. The plaintiff union alleged that the roads failed to pay the Red Caps the difference between tips they collected and the minimum wages fixed for the period.

JUN 20 1942

The court ruled, however, that testimony of nineteen Red Caps who took the witness stand during the hearing last year was insufficient to prove their contention.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Federal Judge Denies Plea Of Brotherhood

Fail To Prove Tips Less Than Lowest 1938 Wage Scale

CHICAGO, Ill., (ANP)—Holding that the Brotherhood of Red Caps, railroad terminal employees, had failed to prove that its members received less in tips than the minimum wage standard fixed by court in 1938, Federal Judge Philip L. Sullivan last week ruled against the brotherhood which had sued the railroads for $1,600,000 in back wages and penalties, from October, 1938 to April, 1940.

Railroads involved were the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific; Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific; Santa Fe, Chicago and Northwestern, New York Central and Chicago and Western Indiana.

The Red Caps Brotherhood has 1,100 members on eight railroads.

Under the system agreed upon at the first settlement, it was explained that if red caps' tips failed to equal 30 cents an hour, the railroads are obligated to pay the difference.

JUN 27 1942

Because of a provision in the wage and hour law permitting double recovery, the $1,600,00 sought in the suit was said to represent twice the amount which the red caps contended was owed them by the railroads.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Chicago Architect Named To Superintendent Home Building

CHICAGO, Ill.—(ANP)—Lemuel G. McDougal, well known colored architectural engineer, has been named chief superintendent for the Associated Housing Architects, constructors of the Robert H. Brooks homes, an ~~834~~ unit war housing project, stated an announcement by the Chicago Housing authority.

McDougal was born in Chicago and received his public school education here. He was graduated from the Brainerd Elementary School, and attended Calment and Lane Technical high school. The enigneer also finished courses at Armour Institute of Technology and the Chicago Technical college.

Gael Sullivan, federal housing administration director for Illinois, announced that construction will begin on a privately financed housing project for war workers shortly.

NOV 7 - 1942

PRINCETON PARK

The project, to be known as Princeton Park, will contain homes for 900 families with units of from 4½ to 5½ room apartments, and two story homes of 4, 6, and 8 rooms. It will be built at an estimated cost of 4½ million dollars.

Priorities have been granted for construction of the initial 230 row of housing unit of the 4½ and 5½ variety. Rental scales of $47.50 for the 4½ rooms have been announced.

The first group of 230 two story homes will be in 38 separate buildings each house containing its individual basement with furnace and laundry facilities. All homes will have front and rear porches.

NOV 7 - 1942

FACILITIES INCLUDED

Lawns and buildings will be maintained by the Princeton Park trust, a group of Chicagoan, headed by Donald O'Toole of Donald O'Toole and Co., real estate operators. Included in the rent will be grabage and ash removal, gas cooking range, automatic refrigerator, auto parking space, some decorating and lawn maintenance.

IOWA

35g-1942
Bystander
Des Moines, Iowa

Lang Garment Company Willing to Open Plant to Train Negro Women

FEB 26 1942

Approximately thirty women—some girls with high school, NYA and college training behind them and others, older women with years of experience as seamstresses, machine operators on WPA and in other factories—were given their first opportunity in Des Mones this week to try out for jobs as machine operators in a private concern, the H. Lang company, Third and Vine, which is manufacturing garments for defense.

Weeks of interviews, scores of letters and verbal battles are behind the efforts to open the doors of manufacturing plants in Des Moines to Negro men and women. Led by John Coleman who represents several labor committees of Negro organizations in the city and assisted by Mrs. Marie Roberts of the Y. W. C. A. who is affiliated wth these same groups the women went to the plant Tuesday and Wednesday evenings to show what they could do as power machine operators.

FEB 26 1942

"Take any machine you like," Mr. Lang told the women as he pointed to a vast room with a hundred or more machines.

Trucks piled high with coveralls that were in the process of being finished cluttered the long aisles of the plant.

"You see all these piles of garments," Mr. Lang pointed out to the group—"They need to be double stitched. If I could find out of this group some perfect operators who can run Union Special machines I will start them to work at once," he said as he invited the women to help themselves in trying out the machines.

FEB 26 1942

The majority of the women and girls was well acquainted with the single-needle power machine. Many of them had used them on WPA and NYA—though "they were not quite so speedy," they agreed.

The machines buzzed for more than an hour that evening while a half dozen of the white operators tried to explain the operations to the women. Supervisors made personal visits to each girl and woman to see what she could do. Several were pointed out—"who had the stuff in them to make good operators."

Some of the women watched the white operators run the special two-needle machine which rumbles as it stitches the in-seams to the garments. Some of the women drew back at the loud noise—others wanted a chancc to sit down and work. Each had a chance—but none of the first group could qualify as an experienced operator—"to turn out perfect garments," Mr. Lang said, as he explained that with the government contracts he could not afford to spoil a garment—that each spoiled one cost him five dollars. "This is government goods and they have a right to reject any work they see fit."

One of the supervisors remembered he had seen some women on WPA at the woolen mills operating special machines. Wednesday he found one of the "best workers" at the mills and that evening Mr. Coleman brought her to the plant.

"You don't have to tell me about her, I know, she is a good operator," the supervisor said as she ran the machine though it was a different make. She is promised a job as soon as she gets used to her machine.

Mr. Lang was disappointed because he could not pick a group of the Negro women to start to work at once, he said, but is willing to "break the ice" and open a way whereby fifty or more may be able to learn at small salary and when they can qualify as experienced operators, "I will start them on the regular shift at once," he said.

FEB 26 1942

Mr. Lang wrote for a special beginners' permit from the government to give him the privilege to train beginners and give others a chance to increase their speeds on the machines.

Other organizations and indivduals have written to the labor department at Washington urging a special permit whereby beginners may be trained in this plant.

One of the government inspectors at the plant whose business it is to see that the government's work is done, revealed that Des Moines is the first town he has been in where Negroes are absent in the manufacturin gplants. "All out East they are about fifty percent in any plant—large or small—as operators and supervisors, too." He shook his head as he said, "you got to fight."

35g-1942
Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

KENTUCKY

McTighe Wants Negroes Who Won't Work Arrested

APR 24 1942

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—(SNS)—Every few weeks something bobs up in Louisville to set Colored Louisville's tongues awagging. The latest is a story in Wednesday's Courier-Journal in which J. J McTighe, a coal operator and official of a coal company that sells a deal of coal to Colored concerns and individuals, is quoted as asking the Director of Safety to arrest Negro men who will not work. He says coal operators cannot get Negroes to work more than two days a week. They live the rest of the time, he added, off the cold pans their wives bring from white folks' kitchens.

APR 24 1942

The Director of Safety is quoted as replying he could not arrest them, Negroes, for not working but they could be arrested for congregating and becoming nuisances and annoyances. That is a significant thing for the Director to say. Are Negroes out of work to be arrested because they gather together on corners or elsewhere and discuss their plight?

APR 24 1942

Mr. McTighe did not tell that local coal dealers are the poorest pay of all big employers of Negro labor. The coal companies want freight cars unloaded but do not want to pay men a decent wage for that back bending work. They want trucks loaded and coal delivered and want to pay very little at a few cents a ton or a bag. Every idle Negro in Louisville is not capable of working on coal trucks or freight cars. Does he want them arrested? Does the Director want all idle Negroes arrested who will not drive coal trucks or empty coal freight cars? As far as Colored women bringing "cold pans" home, that is a thing of the 1900's. Colored women working out in service get little pay and less food they eat on the place and none can be seen leaving with a bundle.

35g-1942
Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

LOUISIANA

Black vs. White In Shipbuilding Contest

JUN 6 1942

359

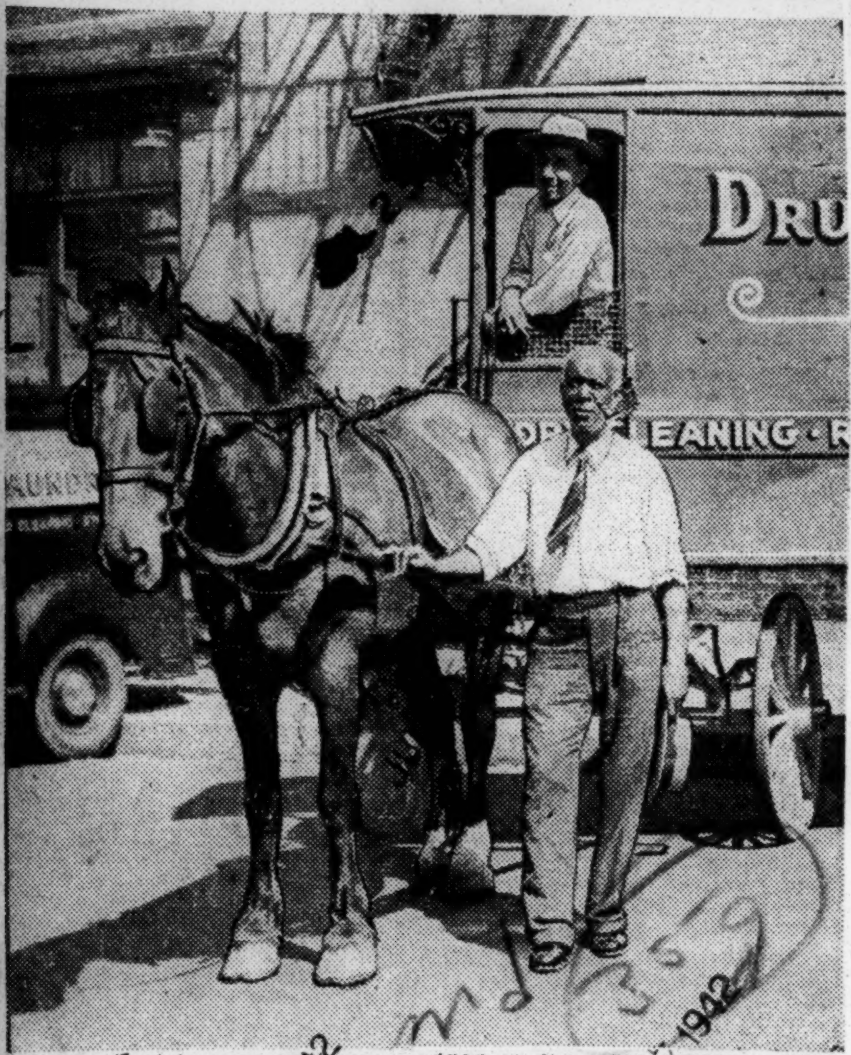
NEW ORLEANS, La.—The eyes of shipbuilders of America will be on this city this winter when colored workers pit their brawn, wit, skill and prowess against white shipbuilders at the yards of the Higgins Industries, Inc., to see which crew is able to build ships the fastest.

The idea of this race was born in the brain of Nebraska-born shipyard boss and owner, Andrew Jackson Higgins who in speaking of the coming of the comang race commented "May the best crews win."

35g-1942

MARYLAND

Good Old Dobbin Returns



In an effort to cope with gasoline and rubber restrictions, the management of the Druid Laundry this week began using a horse and wagon on a route. Two more similar vehicles are to be added in the near future. The company changed from horse and wagon to trucks in 1925. Standing beside the vehicle is James Martin, one of the company's original drivers.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

6,000 Men Earning $60 to $90 Weekly at Port Deposit, Md.

SEP 5 1942

(Passed by Navy Censor)

PORT DEPOSIT, Md.—Approximately 60 per cent of the 10,000 workers, engaged in construction of the U.S. Naval Training Station here are colored, earning from $60 to $90 per week for a sixty-hour week.

The project which will have cost $30,000,000 when completed, is being constructed by the Charles T. Tompkins and Son Contracting Company of Washington, whose vice-president and project supervisor, Francis H. Tompkins, told the AFRO during a half-hour interview, Thursday:

"We find our colored workers in all fields highly satisfactory. Our chief concern at present is that more of them are not available. I need and will hire 2,000 carpenters tomorrow."

Charts on the wall of his office showing the curve of employment increase describe a steady rise from a mere trickle of manpower four months ago to the present number in excess of 10,000, over half of whom are colored; yet Mr. Tompkins continued:

"We find that among our laborers, the ratio of colored is far in excess of even these figures. Nine out of ten men in this category are colored. We also have over 400 colored carpenters on our payroll."

To Hire 5,000 More

Scores of buildings are in various stages of completion, but work on the project has by no means reached its peak. When it does, Mr. Tompkins said, there will be between 15,000 and 16,000 men employed in the work.

Laborers on the project are able to earn up to $60 a week. Skilled workers may earn $80 to $90 a week. Pay is computed on the basis of a 40-hour week, with time and a half for overtime. Workers put in 20 hours of overtime.

New Workers Welcomed

All workers on the project must be members of a union, but this does not mean that hiring restrictions are rigid. Men coming from other locales anywhere in the country are assured a welcome and the assistance of the employment office on the project in adjusting themselves.

Both skilled and unskilled workers will continue to be hired in accordance with the company's present unbiased policy, Mr. Tompkins declared.

35g-1942

MICHIGAN

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga

Short Of Men, Detroit Uses Negroes On Its Street Cars

Now Constitute About One Third Of All Workers on Tram System

DETROIT -- (ANP) — While many doors are still closed in the face of well trained Negroes who can qualify for many types of jobs the door of opportunity has swung wide to young men for service with the Detroit Street Railway system which is constantly advertising for transportation men. So badly in need of men is the system that the age limit has been raised from 30 to 47 years of age.

Negro youth have taken full advantage of this opportunity. There are now Negro conductors on street cars as well as motormen and bus operators, constituting about one third of the employes on all lines throughout the city.

While Negroes have been employed in the system as motormen for a number of years, the company now sees fit to place them in all capacities in direct opposition to the age old answer that "the public would not stand for Negro conductors" on the lines. But since Pearl Harbor the officials have had a decided change of heart.

This may, however, be due to the fact that white workers left the service for better paying jobs in industry and many youths have been called to the armed forces. At least it has been a break for Ngroes and the pay is rated at something like $2,000 a year.

JUL 19 1942

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

DETROIT HAS NEGRO ST. CAR CONDUCTORS

DETROIT, July 16——(ANP)—While many doors are still closed in the face of well trained Negroes who can qualify for many types of jobs, the door of opportunity has swung wide to young men for service with the Detroit Street Railway system which is constantly advertising for transportation men. So badly in need of men is the system that the age limit has been raised from 30 to 47 years of age.

Negro youth have taken full advantage of this opportunity. There are now Negro conductors on street cars as well as motormen and bus operators, constituting about one third of the employes on all lines throughout the city.

Motormen for Years

While Negroes have been employed in the system as motormen for a number of years, the company now sees fit to place them in all capacities in direct opposition to the age old answer that "the public will not stand for Negro conductors" on the lines. But since Pearl Harbor the officials have had a decided change of heart.

This may, however, be due to the fact that white workers left the service for better paying jobs in industry and many youths have been called to the armed forces. At least it has been a break for Negroes and the pay is rated al something like $2,000 a year.

JUL 19 1942

JUL 19 1942

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, PA.

FORD'S PLANT TO HIRE RACE WOMEN

By JOHN WILLIAMS
(Staff Correspondent)

DETROIT, Mich., Aug. 27—The Pittsburgh Courier was informed on Monday that its long, patient program with the Ford Motor Company concerning the employment of colored women has enjoyed fulfillment. Beginning next week, colored women, will be employed by the Ford Motor Company as promptly as possible and in accordance with the abilities of accepted applicants to fit into the present Ford program. There will be a special department established to train applicants and as time passes more and more colored female applicants for employment will be absorbed.

COURIER FIGHTS FOR JOBS

For the past six months, The Pittsburgh Courier has been working with the Ford Motor Company in the interest of colored female applicants for employment. When the matter was first brought to the attention of Mr. Henry Ford, he was favorably impressed and the program would have been under way sooner had it not been for a barrage of ugly letters and activities of overzealous pressure groups. Both Mr. Ford and executives of the Ford Company stated Monday that recent picketing of the plant had absolutely nothing to do with the hiring of colored women.

During the visit of Dr. George W. Carver, several weeks ago, John R. Williams, Detroit editor of The Courier, invited Gloster Current to accompany him to the Ford Company during which time it was revealed to the NAACP executive secretary that the employment of colored women was definitely in prospect and that the zero hour would be about September 1st.

AUG 28 1942

AUG 29 1942

AUG 29 1942

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, PA.

FORD PLANT HIRES 27 COLORED WOMEN

DETROIT, Mich., Oct. [illegible]—The Willow Run plant of the Ford Motor Company has hired 27 Negro women who, upon conclusion of their training, will serve as instructors to additional Negro women who will be taken into the plant, the NAACP was advised this week by Lawrence W. Cramer of FEPC.

OCT 3 1942

Race Women To Picket Ford Plant

Michigan Chronicle
Detroit, Mich.

AUG 22 1942

While Detroit officials weep over the shortage of manpower in this area, several hundred jobless defense trained Negro women plan a demonstration on Thursday at the Ford Motor company employment office in protest over race discrimination at the Willow Run plant, where over three thousand white women are now working

It was also disclosed that the General Council of Local 600 officially adopted a resolution condemning the Ford Motor company for failure to keep its agreement with the union to hire Negro women along with whites at the Willow Run plant. The resolution called for an investigation of the company by the FEPC. It charged that Negro women in Detroit are discriminated against more than any other large industrial center.

AUG 22 1942

A circular condemning Willis Ward and others for the present policy of the company was passed out among Ford workers this week. The circular called for a demonstration on Thursday at 1 p.m. at Employment Office, Gate Number 2.

We reprint herewith the circular and the resolution adopted by the Ford local:

AUG 22 1942

MASS DEMONSTRATION AT
FORD EMPLOYMENT OFFICE
GATE NO. 2, MILLER ROAD
Thursday, August 20, 1942
1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

WHY? Because we want to share fully in the defense program, to do our part to win the war. We can no longer tolerate the Ford Motor company's policy of discrimination against Negro women. We resent Harry Bennett's assertion that the Ford Motor company is the only company giving the Negro a chance. Studebaker Murray company, Buick, Allen Industrial, all have hired Negro women in the past and still are hiring them.

AUG 22 1942

Willis Ward, [illegible] and Norman of the Ford Motor company, relative to the Negro question is a traitor to the cause of Better Labor and Race relations among the Ford workers. The segregated employment office set up (all Negroes channeled through Ward's office and all white workers sent elsewhere) is a great demoralizing factor. This demonstration is an irresistible spontaneous mass movement on the part of all Ford workers and many civic organizations who desire full participation of ALL THE PEOPLE in carrying out the war against Hitler. We want the whole world to know that the Ford Motor company is flagrantly violating the executive order of President Roosevelt, No. 8802, which declares that "there shall be no discrimination against Race, Creed, or Color in hiring in Defense Industries. We feel that this is every man's war, regardless of race. We are fighting for Democracy abroad. We want Democracy at home as well. Mr. Ford, Negro women and men will and must play their rightful part in helping win this war.

WE MEET AT THE EMPLOYMENT OFFICE, GATE NUMBER 2
Thursday, August 20, 1942—1 p.m.
THIS IS NOT A STRIKE.

August 17, 1942

RESOLUTION
Adopted by the General Council
of Local Number 600
Sunday, August 16, 1942

WHEREAS: The President's Executive Order No. 8802 expressly forbids discrimination in employment on account of race, creed, or national origin, and

WHEREAS: Each war contract contains a clause expressly forbidding discrimination, and

WHEREAS: The Ford Motor company has purposely and viciously violated this order by discriminating against Negro women at their Bomber and Highland Park plants where literally thousands of new women have been hired, and

WHEREAS: The Ford Motor company has demonstrated its inability to act in good faith by:

1. Breaching its agreement with the Union relative to non-discrimination in the employment of women.

AUG 22 1942

2. Ignoring their promise made to the Detroit Fair Employment Practice Committee by Harry Bennett, personnel director, last May that Negro women would be hired as soon as the company began hiring women, again, and

WHEREAS: Acts such as these are slowly undermining the faith and morale of the Negro who, too, is fighting and dying for the defeat of Hitler,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That Ford Local No. 600 call upon our great President to call upon the Fair Employment Practice Committee to investigate the anti-Democratic tactics of the Ford Motor company and other reactionary manufacturers in the Metropolitan area relative to their employment policies,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That copies of this resolution be immediately sent to President Roosevelt; chairman of the War Man Power Board, Paul V. McNutt; and to the designated head of the War Labor Board.

SHELTON TAPPES

Here's Looking at
Shelton Tappes

DETROIT.

WHEN Shelton Tappes left Omaha, Nebraska, in 1927, he came to Detroit, an open shop stronghold. He got kicked around and worked for whatever wages he could get. Today he is recording secretary of the largest union local in the world—Local 600, United Automobile Workers, CIO.

How he got to be recording secretary of a local numbering 87,000 men working today on war production makes an interesting story.

After he came to Detroit and found it tough to get a job, he went to Saginaw, Michigan, and worked in the Chevrolet plant as a molder's helper in the foundry, virtually the only place a Negro could get a job in the auto industry.

HE finally got a job on the body line at Briggs as a sander, earning 33 cents an hour. When he and about 20 others went to the management to ask for a raise, they all got fired.

Then he was hired at the Ford plant just before the depression. Laid off after a while, he then washed dishes, became a porter and picked up odd jobs. In 1931 a strike broke out at the Briggs plant and he and his friends who had been fired there, returned to picket. There he saw a friend get clubbed. He began to get interested in organization, but could get no job.

Getting into an old jaloppy and taking $13 with him he headed for New York where he found it just as hard to get a job as in Detroit.

Shelton Tappes returned to Detroit in 1936 and in March, 1937, was back at Ford. Organizational activity was at its peak with the big corporations succumbing one after the other to the union drive. But Ford fired every one that his elaborate spy system disclosed as a union man and the going was tough. Tappes joined Local 235 and participated in every strike at that time.

EARLY in 1938 he was laid-off. He worked on WPA and became chief steward of his unit. Then back to Ford and in May, 1940, he appeared at the Ford Local and met Percy Llewelyn, present vice-president, Tappes' activity in the Ford Local started.

He started to sign up workers in the shop and was fired. His case was taken to the Labor Board and when the decision was favorable, he was one of two to return to the shop with his union button on his lapel.

Tappes talks with pride about the foundry, where, as part-time organizer he saw the union grow from the first meeting of six people to a record meeting of 5,400. He became chairman of the foundry unit. Then his rise was rapid.

WHEN the strike broke out he was in charge of two gates where the picket line included as many as 3,500 picketers. He was on the negotiations committee of 14 and later on the committee to draft the first contract.

The National Labor Board election was held. It was generally conceded that the foundry unit was weak and would be lost. "But," Tappes says proudly, "we carried the election there with 61.8 per cent for the CIO."

After the local was granted autonomy by the UAW-CIO, Shelton Tappes became the first local official to be elected on the first ballot, polling 21,524 votes, a majority of the total vote cast.

ASKED by The Worker what he thought were some of the outstanding achievements of the Ford Local he said that first was the model agreement signed for the duration of the war which has been used as an example in the entire auto industry. It meant an increase of $52,000,000 in wages and $9,500,000 bonus for the workers this year.

The recent settlement with the company for back pay totalling $950,000 for men fired because of union activity is not hay either he says.

The most recent victory was the agreement reached by the company to hire Negro women in all Ford plants in this area. Sixteen have been hired and 1,000 other applications are being examined by the company for selection of women who meet certain qualifications. He says that this selection process will soon be tackled by the union to assure that no discrimination will be practiced.

Nor is Shelton Tappes just concerned with the work in his union. He is a member of the Citizens Committee which fought out the battle for the Sojourner Truth Housing Project, member of the National Negro Congress, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Labor's Non-Partisan League, delegate to the Wayne County Assembly of the CIO and labor member of the District Rationing Board.

35g-1942
Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

MISSOURI

U.S. To Continue Inquiry

MAR 1 3 1942

MAR 1 3 1942

WASHINGTON— Bulletin— The Justice Department will continue its investigation in the Sikeston lynching Jan. 25 of Cleo Wright, Attorney General Biddle, announced, Wednesday. The action of the grand jury in closing the case without an indictment does not affect possible federal prosecution, Biddle asserted.

JEFFERSON CITY — Bulletin —It was learned here Wednesday that three highway patrolmen who were guarding the Sikeston courthouse from which Cleo Wright was taken and lynched reported to their superiors at the time that they could identify many members of the mob. The three, Sergt. Melvin Dace, V. P. Boisaubin and [illegible] Tandy, were explicitly ordered to turn their information over to the Grand Jury jurors.

MAR 1 3 1942

By Willie Bea Harmon

BENTON, Mo.—"It's a closed issue!"

That is the way the Scott county grand jury on Tuesday explained its investigation into the lynching of Cleo Wright in Sikeston, Mo. on Jan. 25. The decision was reached Tuesday. More than 40 witnesses were called.

The mob killing was disposed of in 53 words, while the grand jury took 20 words to ask to be dismissed by Circuit Judge J. C. McDowell of the Scott County Circuit court.

A portion of the report dealing with the lynching of Wright follows:

MAR 1 3 1942

"We, the grand jury find insufficient evidence to return a true bill in the matter of the mob activity at Sikeston, Mo., on Jan. 25, 1942. We desire to compliment the state highway patrol and the county officials for their work in connection with the mob action in Sikeston on Jan. 25, 1942."

35-g

It is considered significant that the grand jurors complimented the state patrol and county officials as Wright was a city police prisoner when he was jerked from an unprotected cell, dragged through the streets and burned.

Scott county residents indeed consider the case a closed issue. They want no "outsiders" meddling in their business.

Hits At Critics

MAR 1 3 1942

The first grand jury called in Scott county in five years, the 12 jurors had been instructed on Monday by Judge J. C. McDowell of the Circuit Court to not "get mad because some folks is rarin' and tearin' and holding mass meetings... The best citizens in the world live in Scott county and you won't need anybody else to help you enforce the law."

The grand jury which was composed of Scott county farmers and businessmen, included two men from Sikeston. The Inquiry was directed by Prosecuting Attorney David E. Blanton and Asst. Attorney General Harry Kay, who assisted Blanton on instructions of Gov. Forrest C. Donnell.

An indictment could have been retured if nine of the 12 jurors had concurred.

Among witnesses called to testify before the grand jury were two FBI men sent out by U. S. Attorney General Fracis Biddle, Washington, D. C.; Willie Bea Harmon, Special Argus correspondent, N. A. Sweets, Editor of the St. Louis American and the Rev. J. B. Ross, Methodist minister of Sikeston. 2

Patrol Officers Guard

Sweets had called Governor Donnell on Saturday to ask protection. Highway patrol officers remained in Benton all day Monday.

Typical of white citizen's opinion on the lynching investigation was Judge J. C. McDowell's remarks in an interview with this reporter.

Accuse Mayor Becker

Judge McDowell accused Mayor William Dee Becker of St. Louis of "playing politics with human lives," when he made a speech at a mass meeting in St. Louis on February 8. Becker accused Scott County officials of being negligent in their duty.

"He (Becker) only made that speech so he could get the Negro vote," McDowell charged.

At the mass meeting Becker pointedly told how the officers ("if they had wanted to,") could have saved Cleo Wright from the savage mob.

Judge McDowell was caustic, too, in his remarks about the entrance of the FBI into the case.

"This won't help Negroes. This will only turn the white people against them," McDowell asserted.

"Mass meetings and speeches won't do no good. Mass meetings are just another form of mob rule. It will be hard now for the whites and the "good," colored people to get along together down here.

Calling attention to the meetings being held throughout the Southeast region, Judge McDowell claimed they were Japanese dominated. 3

When asked if perhaps he had not been influenced by a daily newspaper's reports, Judge McDowell replied: "Perhaps but mass meetings won't get them (Negroes) no place."

A former Charleston, Mo., lawyer, Judge McDowell has been on the Scott county circuit bench for one year.

In defense of Sgt. E. M. Dace of the State Highway, (the man who it was said rode in a car in front of the Mobbist) Patrol, Judge McDowell asserted: "There never was a better man than Dace. He is the best law enforcing officer in Southeast Missouri. (Dace was one of the four law officers who stated that they did everything they could to quell the mob.)

Talked With Reporter

Dace told this reporter on Monday, March 9, that he "was sorry that it ever happened, but you know I don't have to identify anyone in the mob unless I want too.

He further stated that he did "everything in his power," to prevent the lynching.

"I—We talked to the men and attempted to get them to leave, but fianlly we could hold them off no longer."

Dace made a similar statement to this reporter two days after the "lynch-parade." Then he related that there had been three highway patrolmen and Chief of Police Walter Kendell who were armed and who attempted to hold off the mob.

It will be recalled that Dace said the mob of approximately 300 men "were not armed with either sticks or guns." He claimed then that he did not know any of the mob members.

Sgt. Dace has been a State Highway patrolman for 11 years. He has been highly praised as a law enforcing officer by his superiors and S. E. Missourians. Stanley Ginn of the Highway Patrol was especially loud in his prise for Dase.

Feeling Is High

The feeling in the Sikeston-Benton area is tense. Negroes are seething because they resent the lynching and are afraid that they may lose their homes if they make too great a protest. Whites are angry because they "don't like interference with in their business."

The whites are incensed, too, because of the stand of St. Louis newspapers and Mayor Becker's terse indictment of law enforcement officers. Becker charged that these officers "could have prevented the lynching."

More than 200 persons hung around the court house during the grand jury hearing. In the group were some 10 to 20 Negroes from neighborhood communities. No Negroes live in Benton which has a population of 400. 4

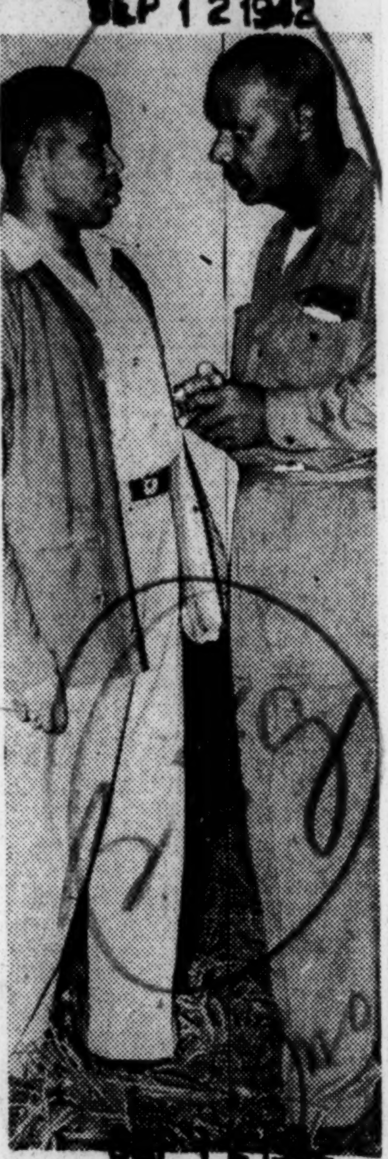
Benton is only 12 miles from Sikeston.

Jurors were: F. M. Craig, secretary building loan, Illmo, Theodore Horne, Merchant, L. D. Lankford, druggist, Chaffee, P. W. Keller, secretary building loan, Chaffee, William English, Benton, overseer; Toney Gosche, farmer, Oran; Frank Frobase, Benton, merchant; R. H. Mackley, Blodgett; Edwin, Burger, barber, Oran, R. D. Clayton, mule dealer, Sikeston; Charles Eakers, Sikeston; Leo Pfefferkorn; Wade Miller, Benton, merchant.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, PA.

SERIOUS MEN

SEP 1 2 1942



Joseph C. Chapman, left, personnel counselor for Negroes at St. Louis, Mo., Aircraft Plant of the Curtis-Wright Company discussed the future of the Negro in industry with Lester B. Granger, National Executive Secretary of Urban League, as they took time out during the sessions of the League's Annual National Conference at Camp James Weldon Johnson, Florence, Pa., over Labor Day.—Photo by Lewis.

Tribune
Philadelphia, P

Kindleberger About Faces, Is Now Leading Employer Of Colored Workers

APR 25 1942

WASHINGTON (By A. E. White for ANP)—An entire about face on the question of Negro employment has been done by J. A. Kindleberger, president of North America Aviation, subsidiary of the General Motors company, since just about a year ago. At that time Mr. Kindleberger brought universal condemnation upon his head when he issued the ultimatum, no Negroes would be employed in any of his plants other than in a custodial or janitorial capacity.

A brief review of the records shows that Mr. Kindleberger has been converted from his former stand and now is one of the leading employers of Negroes in the aviation industry.

Praise Changed Attitude

So startling were the revelations concerning Negro employment in the North American Aviation plants, white newspapers commented on the reversal and praised Kindleberger for his changed attitude, through not without taking a few parting shots at the manufacturer.

Records available show that on April 2, just about a year after the famous Kindleberger pronouncement although the Kansas City plant was not in full production, 135 Negroes are employed with 79 being in custodial work. The others are working on instrument asembly, plating, plastic pattern making, inspectors, process platers, spray painters, material handlers and chauffeurs. Negroes are in complete charge of the store room at this plant.

APR 25 1942

Some In Production

Out at Englewood, Cal., another North American plant, 291 Negroes are employed whereas a year ago there were none. Approximately 200 of these are still in custodial service, but the rest are in production work; metal and chromium plating, sand blasting, painters, oilers, washers, material handlers. Upgrading is in progress in this plant, it is reported.

The Dallas plant, which is just starting production, has 170 Negroes of whom 150 are in custodial posts, but eight are material handlers; 10 electric truck operators and storeroom employers.

So pleased is Mr. Kindleberger with the work the Negroes are doing and the efficient manner in which they are going about their assignments, he attended a banquet recently and had his picture taken with one of the Negro workers in the plant who was to make a speech that night. Further, he has shown interest in the welfare of the Negro workers and has had other photographs made in the plant where the Negroes are actually working as skilled and semi-skilled workers.

APR 25 1942

The general change in his attitude is considered one of the examples of the work being done by the various groups and organizations interested in this phase of putting democracy to work.

Kindleberger has received many complimentary reports on the work the Negroes are doing in the three plants and it is believed others will be employed in fields where they have special ability.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Apply Now for Pratt And Whitney Plant Jobs

NOV. 27, 1942 NOV. 27, 1942

The Pratt and Whitney war plant which will produce engines will train and employ Negroes in jobs for which they qualify, E. Vincent Suitt, Urban League industrial secretary, said yesterday following a conference with company officials.

All persons interested in jobs at the plant now under construction should apply immediately at the U. S. Employment Service office, 1210 E. 12th St., where they will be given application blanks.

In addition to applying at the Employment office, Suitt asks that persons also register at the Urban League office if they have had training in physics or in any metal trade if they have a high school education with training in physics or in any metal trade.

Suitt emphasized the importance of applying quickly as the Pratt and Whitney training program is expected to begin soon.

Mr. Suitt also asks all women who have had power sewing machine training to register at the Urban League office if they are interested in obtaining employment.

35g-1942

NEW JERSEY

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Colgate Company To Employ Negroes In Jersey City Plant

MAR 14 1942

MAR 14 1942

JERSEY CITY, N. J.—The huge Colgate-Palmolive-Peet soap industry has dropped its 136 year-old ban on Negro employees in its Jersey City plant, after a fight by the local Ministerial Alliance and the Jersey City NAACP branch. The new policy was announced in a letter March 3 to the Rev. E. S. Hardge, president of both organizations.

MAR 14 1942

Plans are now being made to ask the company to hire colored workers within the next ten days. The company claims it has a union cnotract which obliges it to hire persons on its waiting list before taking any new employees.

The company has been under fire for more than a month, and proof of its discrimination in employment came when the Jersey Fair Employment Committee, 516 Jackson street, completed an investigation which showed that Negroes could apply for jobs, but were never hired. The Committee sent two colored girls to the plant, one of whom is very fair-skinned She was given an application and told to report to work immediately, but the other girl was told "no applications are being given out today."

MAR 14 1942

E. A. Little, president of the Colgate Company, said in his March 3 letter that the Colgate Company has employed colored people in some of their plants for a number of years.

"It happens that we have not employed colored people at our Jersey City plant, but this is not due to any policy. We recently however, made it a policy that in the future we will employ more at the Jersey City plant also."

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Campbell Soup Co. Asked To Employ Colored Women

AUG 29 1942

CAMDEN, N. J.—The white women employees of the Campbell Soup Co., here, are to be asked to decide whether President Roosevelt's executive order against discrimination in employment for reasons of race, color or creed is to be observed by the management of the plant.

AUG 29 1942

The decision to have the women employees shoulder this responsibility was made by Mr. Heorle, in charge of labor relations at the Campbell plant, after a committee of the Civil Liberties League, aided by Local 80, had visited him and urged the employment of colored women.

AUG 29 1942

Heorle gave a number of reasons why the company had never hired a colored woman and only decided on the plebiscite when his interviewers confronted him with the Executive Order.

The League is awaiting the vote of the women employees and, if unfavorable, plans to bring the discriminatory attitude to the attention of the Fair Employment Practices Committee.

Members of the committee were: Burnett Wright, president of the League; Harry Jackson and Charles Hardy.

——A Colored Judge——

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

THEY WILL DRIVE NEW YORK BUSES

JAN 24 1942

JAN 24 1942

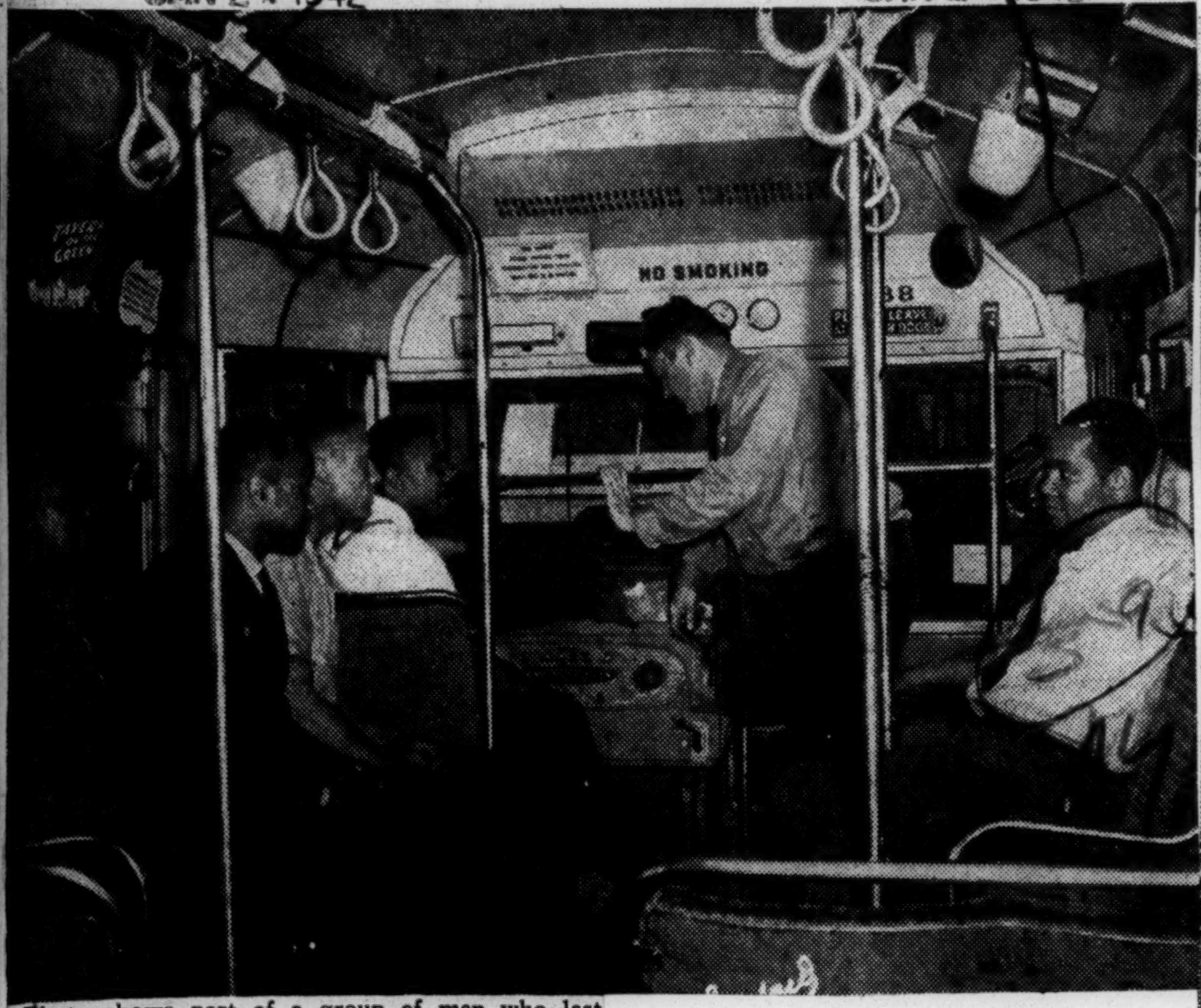


Photo shows part of a group of men who last summer were selected from a qualified list to be trained as drivers with the Fifth Avenue bus company, New York City. The men have been ready to ride for some time and will add another page to history when they make their initial run, Thursday, January 22. Left to right are: C. Smith, E. O. Haney, L. DeLoach, V. Cunningham, Instructor R. Fitzgerald, J. Farrell.—Tommy Sanford photo.

JAN 24 1942

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

SMASH N.Y.C. BAR AGAINST NEGRO BUS DRIVERS

JAN 24 1942

JAN 24 1942

JAN 24 1942

A fight of several months to place Negro drivers at the wheels of buses on some of New York's regular transportation lines will be capped with success this Sunday when ten probationary drivers are put to work on the Lenox and Lexington avenue route of the New York City Omnibus Corporation. After a week's trial, if public reaction is favorable and if the candidates qualify, they will be put on the payroll as drivers and receive regular runs. Some of the candidates are taking instructions here from R. Fitzgerald, a veteran company employee. Left to right.—R. C. Smith, E. O. Haney, L. DeLoach, V. Cunningham, Fitzgerald and J. Farrell.—(Sanford photo).

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

RCA President Explains Body's Negro Stand

JAN 18 1942

NEW YORK, Jan. 15—(ANP)—G. K. Throckmorton, president of the Radio Corporation of America, wired Lawrence Cramer, executive secretary of the Fair Employment Practice committee appointed by President Roosevelt, Wednesday, explaining the employment policy of RCA Manufacturing company.

An inquiry had been received by the FEPC from the Associated Negro press which called attention to the fact that the RCA company had two great plants, one located at Indianapolis and employing 2,500 people, without a single Negro worker, and another at Camden, N. J., in which there were few if any Negroes employed.

The ANP inquiry also pointed out that David Sarnoff, chairman of the board of RCA, was a member of the President's Fair Employment Practice committee and asked what Mr. Sarnoff's opinion and attitude in the matter were.

President Throckmorton made the reply for RCA. His wire read: answering your wire of December 23rd regarding Mr. Barnett's inquiry I would inform you that our company policy is to employ the best qualified workers from among the resident citizens of the community in which our plants operate without discrimination on account of race, creed, color or national origin but giving preference where possible to presently unemployed former employees Stop. This policy established both by choice as well as by con-

JAN 18 1942

tract with employe labor organizations Stop Past and present increasing transition from norma commercial to defense operations has prevented continuous employment of all employees Stop Both company policy and national interest dictates we reinstate such trained and experienced workers as rapidly as conditions will permit Stop Believe our policies as stated are in keeping with the policy of your office and in the best interests of national welfare."

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

FEB 3 - 1942

Negro Bus Drivers for city get their official send-off from Mayor LaGuardia at a reception for them last Saturday at City Hall. Present at the ceremony were: left to right, James D. Stewart, John E. McCarthy, president of the bus companies, Mayor LaGuardia, Ulmer D. Hawey and A. Clayton Powell, Negro Councilman. The drivers, first of 100 to be hired by the Fifth Ave. Coach Co. and the New York City Omnibus Company, won their right to jobs after a long struggle against discrimination.

—Daily Worker Phot

FEB 3 - 1942

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Mayor Backs Harlem Fight for Bus Jobs

JAN 22 1942

Scheduled Meeting With Trainees On City Line Postponed to Jan. 31

Mayor LaGuardia has given his support to the fight of Harlem citizens against discrimination of Negroes as employes in the New York Omnibus Corporation, it was learned yesterday at City Hall.

JAN 22 1942

The Mayor was scheduled to meet in his office yesterday Negroe who had been in training for the bus jobs. He asked that the meeting be postponed until Jan. 31, at which time he would be in his City Hall office.

Representatives of the United Negro Bus Association, who are carrying on the fight for employment of Negroes on the bus lines, met at City Hall yesterday and stated agreement with the Mayor's proposal to meet with him on Jan. 31.

JAN 22 1942

The Thansport Workers Union, which has jurisdiction over the bus lines, is backing the drive of the Negro organization for jobs.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Selects Staff To Train For Harlem Office

Decision Ends Long Battle to Secure Jobs With Company

FEB 14 1942

Following negotiations with the ~~New York~~ Telephone Company for the past three years, the New York Urban League, through its industrial secretary Charles Collier, Jr., took into its employment six colored clerical employes, Monday, to serve as representatives of the firm.

To be in training until the middle of next month when they will take over the office duties of the company's branch located at 126th St. and Lenox Ave., those selected are:

FEB 14 1942

Donald G. Dammond, 270 Convent Ave.; Miss Doris Foster, 246 W. 150th St.; Miss Adelaide P. DeFrantz, 219 W. 139th St.; Miss Yvonne G. Mason, 227 W. 149th St.; Miss Emalena Jones, 107-04 32d St., Corona, and Miss Amelia A. Cooper, 213 W. 138th St.

The selectees will take care of all business in the Harlem area, such as recording telephone orders, sending out and collecting bills and checking on change of addresses of subscribers.

Cooperating with the Urban League in bringing about the jobs were Councilman Stanley Isaacs, former chairman of the board of the league; Councilman Adam C. Powell, Jr., many individuals and organizations.

FEB 14 1942

The league was instrumental in placing several porters and garagemen with the company. The NYA, Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. are credited with recommending many of the young women to the league and the company for consideration

The white employes now in the Harlem office will be transferred to other branches, George R. Dunspaugh, manager, told the Star-News.

HARLEM SCORES A "FIRST"

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh
Pitts, Penn

Negroes are driving buses in the City of New York, which thus becomes unique in the United States.

True, there is a municipal bus company in Winston-Salem, N.C., owned and operated by Negroes, but New York is the first city in which a white-owned company with municipal franchise has employed Negroes as drivers.

The bus company did not hire Negroes because it suddenly toook a liking to them.

FEB 14 1942

The bus company hired Negroes because of the uprising of Negro pedestrians who went on strike against riding in the buses of a company which refused to hire Negroes.

Thousands and thousands of tired Negroes returning to their district after a hard day's work downtown went out of their way by many blocks to take transportation NOT supplied by this company, and they did the same thing each morning when hurrying to work.

FEB 14 1942

This militant spirit finally won the company over to the policy of employing Negro drivers, where years of pleading and arguing had failed.

What has been done in Harlem can be done in many other communities as soon as Negroes realize that they are not going to get anything without a fight.

The better organized that fight, the sooner victory will come.

NEW YORK

35g-1942
Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

LABOR'S FRONT

By J. Robert Smith

FEB 21 1942

The new year is not quite two months old and already two employment records are broken. The Fifth Avenue Coach Company and New York City Omnibus Corporation has employed ten colored bus drivers and the New York Telephone Company is now training six Harlemites who are expected to be inducted into the Harlem branch office around the middle of next month as clerks.

J. Robert Smith

The telephone company has colored porters, garagemen and clerks. The employment of colored operators would place the company in a rather exemplary position in relation to other concerns that do business in a large colored section and refuse to hire colored help. For instance the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, on 125th Street, does thousands of dollars worth of business with Harlemites but does not consider them worthy for employment.

It is confidently felt that the calibre of youngsters that the telephone company has in training will be of credit to their employers and the public.

Now that we have our own bus drivers the responsibility rests on their shoulders to prove to the public that the fight was not in vain and that they are capable of gloriously filling the positions entrusted in their care.

The first many weeks behind the wheels will be trying times for them. They must expect to be scoffed at and criticized by many intolerant members of the community especially in certain areas of the city. That will be their greatest test. That will be the time for them to be cool and calm. The pressure will be great, but it will not be for long.

There was a time when we had no representatives on our subways, in the police and fire departments and in various city jobs. Today we have many, because the pioneers in those fields gave good account of themselves. Our bus drivers must do likewise. They are not only on the spot themselves, but with them is every colored resident in Harlem.

The public also has a responsibility to shoulder. As passengers on the buses, especially those driven by colored drivers, it is our bounden duty to offer them all of the courtesies and respect possible. They are young in the job and we must have patience with them. Like all other drivers, they will make blunders, but every blunder made will be another potent cog added to their wheels of experience.

Taking everything normally, months hence, we shall look back and wonder why our buses were not years before manned with Harlemites, for by that time our drivers shall have comfortably and ably fitted themselves into the scheme of things.

This column wishes them the very best of luck as pioneers in their new field.

How to Get Jobs

New York State's 81 United States Employment Service offices are opening a half hour earlier and closing a half hour later daily in a move to make their labor exchange facilities more fully available to employers and job seekers. The new operating hours are 8:30 A. M. to 5:30 P. M. on weekdays, and 8:30 A. M. to 12:30 P. M. on Saturdays.

The 44-hour schedule has been in effect since the first of last week in the USES offices throughout the nation. Formerly the offices operated on the usual Federal work week of 39 hours.

The early opening and late closing will make it possible for the offices to handle more easily the constantly increasing number of war production jobs the USES is called on to fill and the flood of applications for employment from workers laid off by non-essential industry. The change in hours will also simplify the registration for employment in advance of layoff by workers whose jobs are threatened by material shortages.

Unemployed persons desiring work in special metal trades for defense jobs may apply at the 87 Madison Avenue offices of the USES, which was formerly known as the New York State Department of Placement and Unemployment Insurance before Federalization of the DPUI under the Social Security Board. Industrial workers in various metal, glass, food and related trades may also register at the Madison Avenue offices.

For commercial positions workers may call at 10 E. 40th St.; hotel and service, 40 E. 59th St.; household, 137 E. 57th St.; building and construction, 44 E. 23d St., and needle trades, 225 W. 34th St.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

League Hails Victory In Rail Firemen Decision

FEB 24 1942

Trains Are Ruled To Be Defense Industry

NEW YORK, N. Y.— The Department of Industrial Relations of the National Urban League, through its secretary, Franklin O. Nichols, today hailed as a signal victory for Negro firemen and engineers on certain southern railroads the opinion furnished by John Lord O'Brien, General Counsel of the Office of Production Management. This opinion held that common carriers of nation-wide importance such as railways operating in interstate commerce, are included within the meaning of the term "defense industries" as it is used in the Executive Order 8802 and that any carrier whether interstate or local, which contracts formally in writing to carry troops or equipment holds a "defense contract" and is therefore subject to the obligations imposed upon defense contractors by Section 2 of the Executive Order.

In giving the story back of this momentous opinion, Mr. Nichols related: "Almost from the first time that railroads in the Southern section of the United States of America were developed, Negroes have been serving as locomotive firemen.

In August, 1941, Millard Townsend, international president of the United Transport Service Employees of America, called attention to the threatened loss of jobs by Negro locomotive firemen in certain railroads in the South due to a non-promotable contract entered into between the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen and certain railroads.

The Brotherhood, acting as the exclusive bargaining agent for all locomotive firemen as a class, entered into secret conferences with southern carriers and established memorandum agreements covering the status of Negro firemen employed by these roads. These and other changes have undoubtedly been to the disadvantage of Negro firemen.

The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and the United Transport Service Employees of America have called attention to the fact that this contract threatens to gradually eliminate the Negro firemen completely from this division of railroad service.

The League took the position that in view of the strategic importance of the railroads in the defense of the country and in view of the fact that railroads are transporting defense workers troops, material, and equipment these roads now came within the provisions and spirit of the President's Executive Order 8802 bearing on discrimination and, therefore, within the functions of the FEPC. This point of view is in agreement with the opinion given by John Lord O'Brien General Counsel of the Office of Production Management.

FBI WANTS MEN

N.Y. Age

AND SPEAKING OF OPPORTUNITY, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, through its New York City office, is in need of a number of Negro men as messengers at $1440 per year, with chances for advancement. Last week the following ad appeared in this paper:

N.Y., N.Y.

WANTED MESSENGERS

Limited number for New York City Office of Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Applicants must be able to drive automobile, not subject to immediate induction in armed forces. Must be between 18 and 45 years of age, U. S .Citizen, and be able to pass through physical examination. Must present a neat appearance possess clear record and stand a rigid investigation.

Sat. Nov 14, 1942

Salary starts at $1,440 per year, with unlimited opportunity for advancement.

Applicants should apply immediately, Room 910, 270 Broadway, New York City, between 9 a. m., and 6 p. m., November 5, 6, 7 and 9.

Unless you possess the above qualifications please do not apply.

We don't know whether the quota has been filled for these jobs, but if it has not, we think this is an opportunity few of us could visualize two years ago. It's the first time in many years, to our knowledge, that the FBI has advertised for Negroes and we think this an opportunity to get into this, one of the most important branches of our federal government that should not be passed up lightly.

Inquiry at the above address will let you know if there are still jobs of this kind available. If you can meet the qualifications, get in with the idea of working toward advancement to a higher status.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Marylar

Colgate Co. Admits 100-Year Job Bias

FEB 28 1942

By PETER DANA

NEW YORK—A policy of racial discrimination in employment followed by Colgate and Company throughout its hundred years' history, was revealed this week by James Bright and Fred W. Martin of Jersey City, N.J.

Colgate's plant superintendent McMillan, and personnel manager, McNeal, admitted that the company had hired no colored persons, to their knowledge, in its more than a hundred years of business and that it has none in its employ now.

Minister Quizzes Official

The Rev. E. A. Hardge, member of the Jersey City Fair Employment Committee and president of the Jersey City NAACP branch, inquired: "Does the Colgate Company have any defense contracts?"

On being told by McNeal that the company did have such contracts, the Rev. Mr. Hardge asked: "Do you know you are violating the President's executive order against discrimination by companies handling defense contracts?"

Hereditary Hiring

McNeal answered that he did not know the company was violating the President's order. He added that he did not consider the company's policy discriminatory and explained that the company had always followed a policy of giving employment to the sons and daughters of old employees, so that "our labor supply resembles a huge family."

McNeal continued by saying; "But we do accept applications from colored workers."

Not a single colored resident has ever heard of a colored worker at this company, which boasts a $50,000,000 working capital and admits there is a huge number of colored consumers of its products.

100 Jobs Demanded

The committee was told that Colgate would furnish a statement on its policy within a few days. The committee is demanding the immediate employment of fifty to a hundred colored workers.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

Negro Bodyguard, Handyman Of T. R. Now Agent For FBI

APR 9 1942

The Commercial Appeal Special News Service

NEW YORK, April 8.—One day back in 1901 Theodore Roosevelt, taking his daily canter through Washington's Rock Creek Park, turned to the negro mounted policeman accompanying him and asked:

"Have you got a boy who would like to go to work?"

Officer Joseph F. Amos nodded. "I've got one I can't control," he replied.

T. R. Wanted Him

"All right," rejoined the President of the United States, "that's the one I want."

James E. Amos, the boy whose pappy couldn't control him, for almost 11 years was Theodore Roosevelt's bodyguard, jack-of-all-trades and chief idolater.

At 63 James E. Amos is one of the negro agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Not once but several times he has won the personal commendation of Director J. Edgar Hoover for jobs well done.

He played an important role in the Nation's biggest spy case, in which 33 persons were sentenced for helping steal Uncle Sam's secrets for Hitler.

He joined the bureau in August, 1921, and has served in Washington, San Francisco, Cincinnati, Chicago, Detroit, Boston and Miami, as well as in New York. Shrewd, patient and observing, he once apprehended a man who had killed another on a battleship, after the bureau had been hunting him for 15 years.

Expert on Guns

Among his choicest memories is his association with Theodore Roosevelt.

"He was one of the most regular men I ever worked for in my life," he says.

An expert on guns, Amos always tried out T. R.'s before the latter would use them. If Amos said a gun was no good, it was sent back. He wrote a book about Mr. Roosevelt, "A Hero to His Valet," which won him an honorary membership in the International Mark Twain Society.

An expert marksman as well as a specialist in guns, Amos regularly reports for work at 7 a.m. He is not required to be there until 9:30.

Harlem's Victory in Bus Strike Already Year Old; Significant

People's Voice

MAY 2 1942

New York N.Y.

Although last week was the first anniversary of the victory to get Negroes into the employ of the New York City Omnibus Corporation and the Fifth Avenue Coach Company, there was no celebration in observance of this hard-won fight that has since resulted in the hire of roughly 20 drivers and 70 mechanics, helpers, and other classifications.

The only indication that the occasion was remembered was the release of a joint statement by the United Negro Bus Association. It read:

"It's been a year since the people of Harlem demonstrated that through a mass determination and a united effort, job opportunities can and will be opened to them. But we who constitute the United Negro Bus Association note this occasion only in passing. We say 'in passing' because achievement of any kind today must quickly give way to the achievement of tomorrow; and victory on one front simply means we must next turn our attention to another front. This we are doing—doing with vigor, hope and confidence that eventually Negroes of Harlem, and of America, will enjoy the fruits of American democracy without the need for constant struggle."

It was in March, 1941 just as the Transport Workers Union was about to arbitrate their grievances with the two major operating companies when the Coordinating Committee for Employment, the National Negro Congress and the Harlem Labor Union pooled their energies to prosecute a picketing and boycotting campaign against the companies. A food kitchen was set up at Abyssinian Baptist Church, two mass meetings were held that filled the Golden Gate, and the entire community was made conscious of the issue.

The companies gave early indication of their willingness to hire Negroes, but certain questions of union rights developed to interfere with the conclusion of an agreement. When these difficulties were finally ironed out a tri-partite agreement was signed on April 19th among the companies, the union and the association. This contract set forth that as soon as a seniority list of 91 persons had been exhausted, the next 100 drivers would be Negroes; that Negroes would be immediately taken into the maintenance department as mechanics, helpers, shifters, etc. up to 79. When these limits had been reached, the appointment of Negroes would be made on an alternating basis.

This agreement has been adhered to pretty closely. The seniority list expired in early January, and at the end of the month, 10 Negroes, who had already served their training period, went to work as drivers. Others have been put on active duty also with still more put into training—EJ

35g - 1942

New York

Negro Captain Gets Ship After Long Fight

Daily Worker
N.Y., N.Y.

SEP 24 1942

SEP 24 1942

By Eugene Gordon

Hugh Mulzac, the 56-year-old Negro sea captain, will be master of the 10,000-ton Liberty ship, the Booker T. Washington.

SEP 24 1942

(35-g)

Captain Edward Macauley, deputy administrator, War Shipping Administration, Washington, publicly made the announcement yesterday. A little more than a week previously Captain Macauley had admitted to a delegation of Negro trade unionists that Mulzac's 22-year runaround by the United States Shipping Board, the Maritime Commission and various ship owners was **"a case of rank discrimination."**

Captain Mulzac, yestreday in the E. 17th St. offices of the National Maritime Union, told of that interview in Washington.

"Captain Macauley asked our opinion on what could be done to solve the problem immediately. But before we could say anything he told us he had something in mind.

"There was a ship on the West Coast they were going to chirsten the Booker T. Washington, in honor of the great Negro educator, Macauley said. He said he was going to try to get Marian Anderson to sing at the chirstening and to have Paul Robeson sponsor the ship.

"Macauley then asked me if I thought I could get together a full colored crew for the Booker T. Washington.

SEP 24 1942

Captain Mulzac yesterday recalled that the delegation told Captain Macauley they were in Washington representing organizations which make it a principle to fight discrimination and jim-crowism. The deputy administrator of the WSA was told frankly that "under no conditions" would the delegation return to New York, admitting it had compromised on a jim-crow ship.

"Well, then, what can we do about it?" Captain Macauley asked Mulzac.

"I have a suggestion," Mulzac replied.

SEP 24 1942

Macauley listened as Mulzac told of having a master's "ticket" and suggestions that, **"if you'll make me master of that ship, I'll have an entire crew of Negro and white officers and men to man her."**

"Do you think you can do that?" Captain Macauley asked.

"Sure, I'll be able to do it."

Macauley said then that it was "a deal." Mulzac could have the Booker T. Washington as soon as he could produce the officers and men. Macauley followed this oral promise with one in writing.

NMU GETS CREW

Back in New York, the delegation was assured by Frederick N. Myers, vice president of the NMU, of fullest cooperation.

SEP 24 1942

Captain Mulzac yesterday was able to report that most of the crew of 38 needed to man the new freighter have been procured. Besides the captain there will be three deck officers, four engineers, and a wireless operator. The wireless operator and the chief engineer, already signed, are Negroes. Mulzac wants the crew—officers and men—to number half black and half white.

Captain Mulzac came to the United States from the British West Indies in 1911. He became a citizen of the United States in 1918. He had no difficulty getting his "tickets" as a licensed officer during the first world war, for there was an acute shortage of qualified men. He sailed as third mate, as second mate, and as chief officer under the U. S. Shipping Board, then operating all American ships. He made six trips in all, convoys in which he traveled frequently being torpedoed.

SEP 24 1942

After this war, however, he could find no employment. The very U. S. Shipping Board which had commissioned and hired him during the conflict now told him brutally that, "so long as there's a white man sitting in the hall and wanting a job, you can't expect to be shipped." That pronouncement by Captain Haines, than head of the U. S. Shipping Bureau, became the official attitude.

"This is no personal victory," Captain Mulzac said yesterday. "It is a victory by the Negro Labor Victory Committee, the National Negro Congress, the Brooklyn Victory Council, and the trade unions. It is a victory also," he said, "for other licensed Negro officers, of which there are manv."

World-Telegram
New York, N. Y.

Redcaps Too Few and Too Slow.

OCT 7 - 1942

Passengers with hand luggage complain they find it harder and harder to get redcap porters at the Pennsylvania Station and at the Grand Central Terminal.

A World-Telegram survey last week disclosed that, despite a 50 per cent increase in passenger traffic at Penn Station and a 35 per cent increase at Grand Central due to wartime travel, Penn Station has no more and Grand Central has only six more redcaps than the numbers serving these respective terminals in the far lighter passenger traffic of a year ago.

(35-g)

OCT 7 - 1942

Also the new 10-cent fee-and-tag system is said to have disappointed the redcaps, slowed down their service and caused passengers growing inconvenience and delay.

To the traveling public it would seem that bigger wartime earnings for the railroads, the desirability of relieving unemployment in Harlem and the need of expediting the increased passenger traffic should combine to urge the hiring of more terminal redcaps.

As for the clumsy tag-and-10-cent requirement for each and every piece of hand luggage, competent inquiry might reveal that a majority of travelers, as well as of redcaps, would be glad to go back to the old tip system, which produced at least a certain willing alacrity.

OCT 7 - 1942

The railroads should promptly look into the matter, we think, and see what can be done to provide more redcaps and less reason for justified public complaint.

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Only Postwoman in US Resigns Brooklyn Post

NOV 14 1942

NOV 14 1942

Mable L. Potter who recently received nation-wide publicity from daily, weekly papers and the wire services and whose picture was carried in many papers when she was appointed the first postwoman of World War II and commissioned to carry special delivery messages, has resigned her position after one week's work.

Mrs. Potter stated the immediate cause of her resignation to be night work in inclement weather. She said that the streets are so dark, due to the dimout regulations, that she had difficulty finding house numbers. Another hardship encountered by the pioneer postwoman was the bad roads in East New York. Mrs. Potter made her deliveries in a second-hand Ford which she recently purchased for $125.

HEAVY WORK

NOV 14 1942

When Mrs. Potter was reminded that she had applied to Postmaster Frank J. Quayle for the position because she liked outdoor work she said that jumping in and out of a car every two minutes was more than she had bargained for and, anyway, she hurt her back delivering 110 pieces of mail from 6:30 am until midnight.

For her first six days work Mrs. Potter received a check for $33.48. Her work was on a piecework basis, 9 cents a letter and 15 cents or more for parcels, according to weight.

NOV 14 1942

Mrs. Potter, who is 40 years old and lives at 605 Macon st, Brooklyn, said it is possible she might be rehired for inside work. Postmaster Quayle could not be reached for comment.

Ex-Postwoman *Mable L. Potter*

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Hospital Maids Do Men's Work

NOV 14 1942

The work of a chambermaid at Fordham Hospital Nurse's Residence is anything but easy. In fact, from the menial assignments it would seem that authorities at that institution make little or none of the distinctions commonly made between types of work for male and female. So runs a charge made by eight maids on the Fordham staff. The following schedule tells their story:

NOV 14 1942

NURSES' RESIDENCE (EXTRA MAID)

Day Off—Sunday

8 am—On duty, sign in book at desk on first floor.

8 to 8:45—Sort and distribute mail in mailroom.

8:45 to 9—Report to fifth floor Nurses' Annex.

9 to 9:30—Sweep sitting-room floor, go over floor with oiled mop. Dust woodwork and furniture in sitting-room.

9:30 to 10—Sweep bathroom and washroom floors. Wash sinks, tubs and wash-basins, mop bathroom floor.

10 to 10:30—Sweep fourth floor sitting-~~room, go over floor with oiled mop.~~ Dust furniture and woodwork in sitting-room.

10:30 to 11—Sweep bathroom and washroom floors. Wash sinks, tubs and wash-basins, mop fifth floor.

~~11 to 11:30—Wash cleaning cloths and hang them in bathroom on rack to dry. Wash pail and mop in bathroom.~~

11:30 to 12:30—Sort and distribute mail in mailroom.

NOV 14 1942

12:30 to 1:30—Lunch.

1:30 to 2:30—Sweep five flights of stairs in Annex. Dust stair railing.

2:30 to 3—Dust fire extinguishers, doorknobs, and light switches on fifth and fourth-floor landings.

3 pm—Report to nurse in charge of residence.

3 to 5—Special duties. Cleaning to be assigned by the nurse in charge of residence from the list below:

Walls in halls to be dusted in Residence.
Oil class room chairs once a week.
Wash tile walls in building.
Dust overhead steam pipes in building.
Clean Sub-basement.
Clean elevator doors on each floor.
Dust fire doors.
Mop front and back stairs once a week.
Clean jars and crocks in laboratories once a week.
Fill fire buckets.

NOV 14 1942

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

First Colored Bus Operators Begin Work In New York City

FEB 7 - 1942

~~NEW YORK~~ — With relatives and friends contributing to the atmosphere of a bon voyage party, showering the happy candidates with kisses and farewell hugs, a new chapter was written Sunday morning in racial economic progress when ten Negro bus drivers, New York's first, were put to work on the Lexington-Lenox Ave., line of the New York City Omnibus Corporation.

The history-making event ushered in an era of wide possibilities. Inasmuch as Negro bus drivers will not be confined to the colored areas and will have to deal with white riders most of the time, the experiment was regarded by some observers as establishing the principle that labor is labor irrespective of color or creed. The New York City Omnibus Corporation is not the first public utility here to use Negroes as contacts with the public, but except for the city-owned subway system, Negroes have been relegated to the Harlem area in most cases.

At a pep meeting in the office of Mayor LaGuardia, Saturday noon, the city's chief executive congratulated the bus company officials "for having the vision of following the policy of equitable and fair distribution of employment."

ON PROBATION

The Mayor shook hands with each of the ten drivers after they were introduced by John E. McCarthy, president of the company.

The men will be on probation for about a week, working with white drivers.

Also attending the conference in the Mayor's office were the Rev. Adam C. Powell, Harlem pastor and recently elected city councilman, who was the guiding light in the campaign initiated a year ago to induce the Transport Workers Union and the bus companies to let their color barriers down. Others on hand were Attorney Hope Stevens, president of the Harlem chapter of the National Negro Congress, and Roger Straughn, president of the Harlem Labor Union, two of the militant organizations behind the bus drivers movement.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

YMCA Gets $5,000 Fund For Technical Training

FEB 7 - 1942

CHICAGO, Ill. — (ANP) — The Wabash Avenue YMCA has received a scholarship fund amounting to $5,000 to train boys in technical trades to prepare them for better jobs in connection with the national defense.

The training will be given at the Lawson Y. M. C. A. Trade School which has been turning out students by the hundreds for the last several years and preparing them for national defense work.

The school has always been open to all groups, but because of the difficulty in placing colored in national defense jobs they have not taken advantage of the training.

The purpose of this scholarship fund is to make an experiment by training a large number of colored boys and men and then present them to the national defense industries.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Six Clerks Hired By New York Telephone Co.

FEB 22 1942

~~NEW YORK~~, Feb. 19—(ANP) — Six Negro clerical employes were added to the staff of the New York Telephone company here last Monday, following completion of three years of negotiations with the company by the New York Urban league, through Charles Collier, Jr., industrial secretary. Those selected were Donald G. Diamond, Miss Doris Foster, Miss Adelaide P. DeFrantz, Miss Yvonne G. Mason, Miss Emalena Jones and Miss Amelia A. Cooper.

The selectees are to undergo training until the middle of March at which time they will take over the company's branch office located at 126th street and Lenox avenue. Here they will take care of all business in the Harlem area, such as recording telephone orders, sending out and collecting bills and checking on change of addresses of subscribers. White employes in the Harlem branch are to be transferred to branches in white districts, said George R. Dunspaugh, manager.

Aiding the Urban league in securing the employment of these six colored workers were Councilman Stanley Isaacs, former chairman of the board of the league; Councilman Adam C. Powell, Jr., many individuals and organizations.

FEB 22 1942

In addition to placing the six in clerical positions, the league has also been instrumental in securing openings for several porters and garagemen with the company. The cooperation of the NYA, YMCA and YWCA in recommending many of the applicants to the league and the company was also mentioned by the Urban league secretary.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

N. Y. Telephone Company Hires Receptionists

FEB 21 1942

~~NEW YORK~~ — **With Negroes operating subways and buses and serving as receptionists with the gas and electric light companies, there was further cause for rejoicing in Harlem last week when the New York Telephone Company revised its policy to permit the employment of Negro receptionists in one of its Harlem offices.**

The triumph was shared by the New York branch of the National Urban League, the Harlem Labor Union and the Greater New York Coordinating Committee for Employment.

From a list of applicants submitted by the Urban League, the company accepted five females and a male. They will undergo a six-week training period at the end of which time they will replace as many whites in the company's Harlem branch at Lenox Avenue and 126th Street.

Among those accepted was Miss Adelaide DeFrantz, daughter of Robert DeFrantz, national financial secretary of the YMCA. Others are Doris Foster, Yvonne Mason, Emalena Jones, Amelia Cooper, and Donald G. Dammond.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

TELEPHONE CO. HIRES NEGROES

FEB 14 1942

To Staff Harlem Office With 5 Women And 1 Man Now Training

FEB 14 1942

The ~~New York~~ Telephone Company's Harlem office at 126th street and Lenox avenue will be staffed by Negro personnel, five women and one man, who went into training on Monday to become known as representatives of the company. After the training period, which it is estimated will require six weeks, they will conduct all business of the branch.

FEB 14 1942

Twenty applicants sent by the New York Urban League to the New York Telephone Company underwent a 2-day pre-selection examination. From among the applicants the following were selected for the Harlem office and on Monday went into training:

Doris Foster, 246 West 150th St.

Adelaide DeFrantz, 219 West 139 street.

Amelia Cooper, 213 West 138th street.

Yvonne Mason, 227 West 149th street.

Emalena Jones, 107-04-32nd avenue, Corona.

Donald G. Dammond, 270 Convent avenue.

FEB 14 1942

The employment of the Negro staff followed some three years of conferences between the Telephone Company and Charles A. Collier, industrial secretary of the New York Urban League of which James H. Hubert is executive director.

While it had been rumored for some time that the Telephone Co. would employ Negroes it was not until the annual dinner meeting of the New York Urban League was held at the Grand Street Boys several weeks ago that the first indication of the impending employment was given.

Among others who interceded in the matter were City Councilmen Stanley Isaacs and A. Clayton Powell, jr.

FEB 14 1942

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Telephone Co. Hires Negroes

FEB 16 1942

Six to Work In N. Y. as Clerks

~~NEW YORK~~ —(ANP) —**Six Negro clerical employees were added to the staff of the New York Telephone company here last Monday, following completion of three years of negotiations with the company by the New York Urban league, through Charles Collier, Jr., industrial secretary. Those selected were Donald G. Dammond, Miss Doris Foster, Miss Adelaide P. DeFrantz, Miss Yvonne G. Mason, Miss Emalena Jones and Miss Amelia A. Cooper.**

The selectees are to undergo training until the middle of March at which time they will take over the company's branch office located at 126th St. and Lenox avenue. Here they will take care of all business in the Harlem area, such as recording telephone orders, sending out and collecting bills and checking on change of addresses of subscribers. White employes in the Harlem branch are to be transferred to branches in white districts, said George R. Dunspaugh, manager.

FEB 16 1942

Aiding the Urban league in securing the employment of these six colored workers were Councilman Stanley Isaacs, former chairman of the board of league; Councilman Adam C. Powell, Jr., any individuals and organizations.

In addition to placing the six in clerical positions, the league has also been instrumental in securing openings for several porters and garagemen with the company. The cooperation of the NYA YMCA and YWCA in recommending many of the applicants to the league and the company was also mentioned by the Urban league secretary.

FEB 16 1942

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

SUBWAY CONDUCTORS

FEB 14 1942

359

THE MUNICIPAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION is accepting applications for conductor for the New York City Transit System. There are 64 vacancies in the BMT Division, 50 in the IND Division and 40 in the IRT Division, at present. In addition the list established from this examination will be certified as appropriate for the position of street car operator and railroad clerk. Hundreds of such vacancies are expected before the list expires.

FEB 14 1942

Requirements for the job are: Not less than 5 feet 6 inches in height (bare feet), and a minimum age of 21 years. Although railroad experience is desirable, it is not required. The pay is from 65 to 78 cents per hour but an increase is expected within a year.

Negroes seeking work are urged to apply for this job. File your application at 29 Broadway

---

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

NEW EMPLOYMENT POLICY OF THE TELEPHONE CO.

FEB 21 1942

358

OF GOOD NEWS TO NEGROES in New York City and throughout the country was the announcement last week that the New York Telephone Company had changed its employment policy and would staff its business office in Harlem with an all-colored personnel. A staff of six young colored people is in training to take over the office.

FEB 21 1942

In adopting the policy of manning branch offices with residents of the neighborhood in which the branch is located, the telephone company is following the example of Western Union and Postal Telegraph companies which have for sometime had colored staffs in their Harlem offices. And the records show that the colored clerical staff and messengers have proved just as efficient as those of other racial groups.

FEB 21 1942

The New York Telephone Company is a part of the American Telephone and Telegraph System which controls all telephone service in this country, so that if the Harlem experiment proves successful branch offices in the colored neighborhoods of other large cities may also have Negro staffs in the not too distant future.

FEB 21 1942

This liberalized policy is the result of several years of negotiations on the part of several groups of Negroes with officials of the telephone company and other public utilities. The New York Urban League, through its Industrial Department, initiated these conferences and had the able support of former Borough President Stanley Isaacs and many influential Harlem citizens and organizations. They as well as the New York Telephone Company are to be congratulated on the successful conclusion of these negotiations.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Bus Drivers Scheduled To Begin Work

JAN 25 1942

NEW YORK, Jan. 22—(By Ernest L. Johnson for ANP)—The probability that 10 Negroes will be driving buses operated by the New York Omnibus corporation and the Fifth Avenue Coach company before the end of January was indicated in the announcement Monday by Edmund C. Collins, secretary-treasurer of the two companies, that the men will begin instruction under actual road conditions on January 25. They have already had preliminary training in the operation of the buses. This final stage of preparation, Mr. Collins said, takes from two to six days, depending upon the individual, following which they are given permanent assignments.

With this announcement the final chapter is being written to the story of the fight by Negroes here under the leadership of the Coordinating Committee for Employment, the Harlem Labor union and the local unit of the National Negro congress, to remove the barriers that have kept them from employment in the privately owned transportation systems of the city.

JAN 25 1942

The fact that these men are soon to begin work as drivers is due to the exhaustion of a list of 91 names of whites who had seniority when the contract among the companies, the Transport Workers union and the joint bus committee was signed last spring. According to Mr. Collins, he had not anticipated this exhaustion before February whereas the last of the 91 was actively appointed several days ago.

The agreement stipulates that upon the exhaustion of this list, the next 100 drivers would be Negroes. Thereafter appointments would be alternating. Inasmuch as there was no similar list for shop jobs, 60 Negroes have been appointed since April 29, 1941. Future such appointments will continue until 100 Negroes will have been appointed, whereupon the assignments will alternate.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Boro Postmaster Promotes Clerk

MAR 21 1942

For the first time in the history of Brooklyn, a Negro was named assistant superintendent in a borough post office when Postmaster Frank J. Quayle, Jr., promoted Lloyd Wheeler, well-known Brooklynite, to an assistant superintendent's post at the Coney Island station.

In making the appointment, Postmaster Quayle has promoted the second colored postal employe since he was made postmaster two years ago. Clarence Wilson was previously made a foreman in the General Post Office in Brooklyn.

The new assistant superintendent was a finance clerk in the Brooklyn Post Office for the past 20 years and has an efficiency rating of 100 percent.

MAR 21 1942

Mr. Wheeler is a graduate of Howard University, Class of 1916. His late grandfather, the Rev. Amos Freeman, gained prominence for his assistance to the "underground railroad" that freed slaves. His father, the Rev. Robert F. Wheeler, was well-known in Brooklyn churches.

Mr. Wheeler resides with his wife and three children at 944 Troy Ave., Brooklyn.

Dentist Given Spot In Utility Firm

People's Voice
New York, N.Y.

APR 18 1942

Last week the Consolidated Edison Company added a Negro to its dental staff for the first time in history. Dr. Newton E. Douglas, 185 W. 135th street, is the appointee.

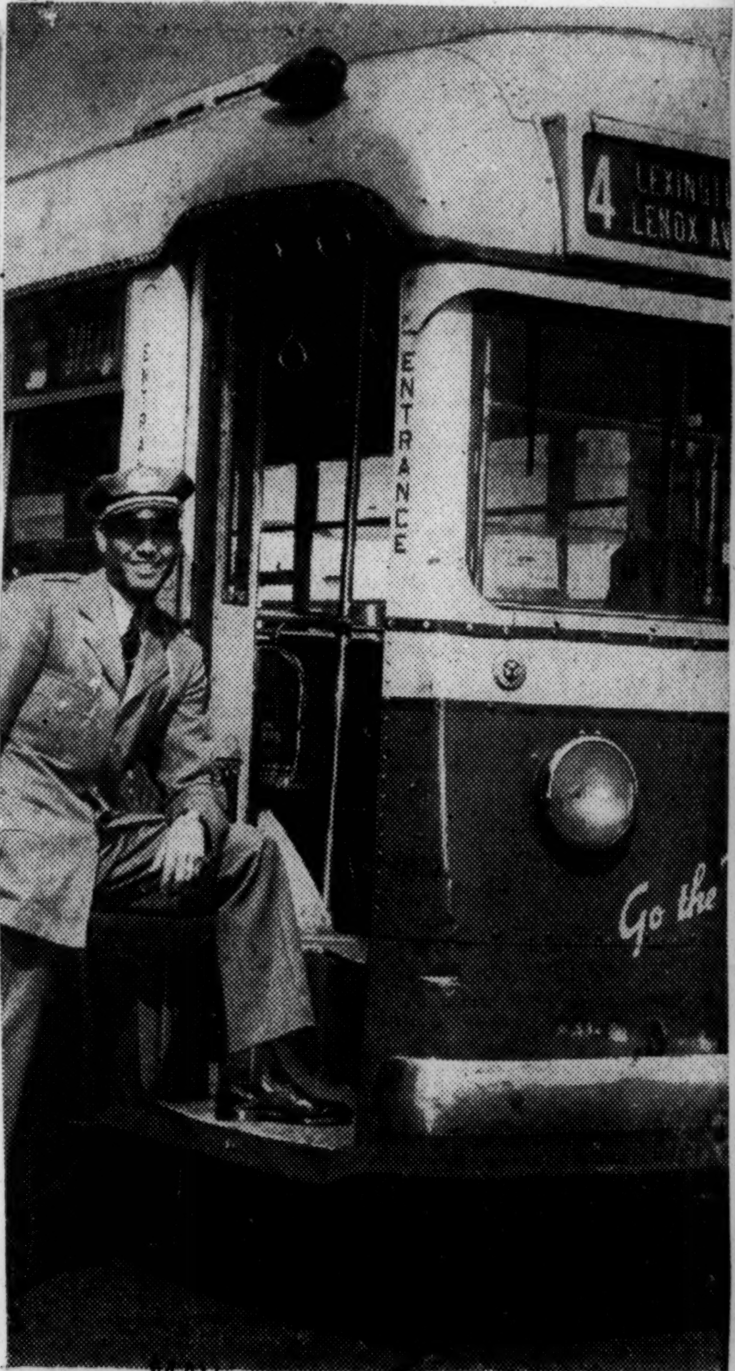
"Seemingly the position was waiting for a Negro to come and get it," said the dental surgeon, "because after the first expressed desire to serve Edison, there was unusual interest shown in welcoming me into the fold. Medical Director J. J. Wittmer, Assistant Russell Kimball, and the dentist in charge, Dr. Hawthorn, were more than encouraging.

APR 18 1942

The modest medic is anxious to give others credit for the opportunity to render service to employes of one of New York's largest firms.

Dr. Douglas is a native of Jamaica, B.W.I.; Meharry Medical College graduate; lover of music—especially the operatic compositions of Richard Wagner, and has practiced in Harlem over a decade.

Amsterdam Star-News
New York, N. Y.



MAY 25 1942

LESLIE MALHADO is shown entering a N. Y. Omnibus Co. bus to begin his Lexington-Lenox Ave. route as one of the newer drivers. He recently gave up his own band which had been playing at Broadway's Dreamland for the past two years. Previously the orchestra had played in Europe's outstanding capitals. Les seems to like his new job. Sorry, girls, he's married.

35g-1942

NEW YORK

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Civic Groups Attack Plan

Support Follows Case in County Courtroom

JUN 6 1942

Excitement is running rampant in Brooklyn civic circles this week following the guilty verdict rendered by a County Court Jury against Joseph Gray, Negro trolley motorman who was confronting second degree assault charges. The Brooklyn Branch of N. A. A. C. P. has joined in the fight to aid the motorman.

Gray who lives at 361 Stuyvesant Avenue, Brooklyn, was charged by Michael Penta, of 325 East 52nd Street, Brooklyn, of not stopping at Maple Street when he requested and instead carried him two blocks farther. He also charged that Gray left the car and struck him.

JUN 6 1942

However the motorman relates an entirely different story. Gray told the court that Penta used vile and abusive language and refused to get out of the doorway of the trolley. Names relative to Gray's race were shouted at him and then Penta struck at him.

It was at this time that Gray went after the passenger in self-defense. Gray emphatically stated that he did not leave the trolley as Penta had told the court.

As a result of the verdict, Gray faces a maximum penalty of five years. The case was presided over by Judge Louis Goldstein.

Attorney Phillip J. Jones who is handling the case for the N. A. A. C. P. stated that he sincerely believed Gray was "railroaded."

"It is a shame the way the Negro motormen have to take abuse from white passengers who board their trolleys," Jones said. "There seems to be a concerted action to drive these boys from their well-earned positions.

"No longer than April 3rd, John Newton Roache was putting his car in the barn and was mysteriously and accidently killed by another white motorman who ran his car into him. This was called an accident," Jones said. Roache was one of the best motormen on the line. No investigation nor anything has ever been done about the death of this Negro motorman. It was marked off as an accident."

JUN 6 1942

Fred H. M. Turner, Brooklyn Branch president, intimated to the Star-News that nothing would be left undone until justice was arrived at in this case. Other uptown civic organizations are also busy preparing to fight against the conviction.

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Wineries Short On Negro Help

Harlem, 110 to 155 st, Fifth to St. Nicholas aves, is the largest single sweet wine (port, sherry and muscatel) consuming area in the entire US. Serving the Negro market in Harlem are approximately 25 wineries. Of this number, about ten do the bulk of their business in this community. The rest do about 30 percent of their total business here. These 25 or more wineries employ salesmen, truck drivers, helpers, shipping clerks and office workers. After a thorough check, PV finds only two companies hiring Negroes. One firm hires a Negro as driver, the other uses two helpers on their Harlem delivery truck.

This industry hires 25 or more salesmen, none of whom are Negroes. Nor do they hire any Negro drivers, helpers or office workers with the exceptions noted above.

Four Star Wine does the largest business in Harlem. Some others are Monarch Wine, Chateau Martin, K. Arakelian (Mission Bell wines), Garrett (Virginia Dare, and others), Sebastiani Winery (San Rosita), Atlat Import company, Toms Wine company, Cribari and Sons (Sonnie Boy wines).

As far as we have been able to find out, Negroes do not produce any wine or wine grapes commercially in the US. Consequently, if we must continue to support these companies, let us at least give the most help to those that help us.

Great Northern Winery, which makes Four Star wines, is one of the two companies hiring Negroes. They hire two helpers. The other firm is the Rex Winery, which hires a driver.

Armstrong-Zkouras wines, with which Henry Armstrong is associated, is not a wine-producing firm. It bottles and distributes vintages under its own trade name. It is, of course, definitely a firm worth supporting.

Most of the owners of the wineries should be approached on the question of jobs. As a rough estimate, we'd say it wouldn't be out of line to ask for 25 salesmen, 25 drivers, 25 helpers, 50 office workers among all of them.

Whenever Harlemites spend their money with companies in their own community that do not hire Negroes, they are helping to impoverish the community. **By patronizing those who do hire Negroes they are helping themselves to greater financial stability and at the same time expanding employment opportunities for their own boys and girls.**

The wine industry locally is just another example of the many situations in which we play only the part of the consumer.

(Ed. Note:—In last week's article on the beer situation, the name of Joe Jordan, representative of the Rubsam and Horrman, Brewing company, was omitted thru oversight. Curt Horrmann, by the way, is manager of Ray (Sugar) Robinson. Our apologies to Mr. Jordan and the makers of R and H beer).

JUL 1942

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

Among Railroad and Pullman Workers

By JAMES H. HOGANS

PULLMAN APPRECIATION

NEW YORK

Although the Pullman Company is one of the largest employers of colored labor in the country, and has stated publicly, more than once, that the members of its porters' personnel are as intelligent, honest and loyal a group of workers as any in its services, it employs no colored man in a distinctive position, or a position that has no direct relation to his race.

In all other respects however, Pullman is singularly impartial in its appreciation and treatment of its colored employees—more so perhaps than any other American corporation of its size.

JUL 8 1942

This was illustrated last week in New York when the Pullman management of the New Haven Zone gave an informal luncheon to Porters Joseph B. Hughes and Fred D. Wright in honor of their fiftieth anniversaries as employees of the company.

While this was the first time in the history of the company that members of the porters' group were so honored, a similar event was held last year in Chicago for fifty-year members of the managerial, mechanical and clerical forces.

Longevity of service, however, is nothing rare in the Pullman organization. In this connection it perhaps has few, if any, equals in the industrial field.

An official compilation of long-service employees last year disclosed that, of approximately 22,000 workers, 2,711 had been with the company for over twenty-five years; thirteen of which had been in its employ for over fifty years.

This year, six more were added to the half-century roll, Porters Hughes and Wright being among these.

In point of service, those two porters are the deans of the porters' personnel, being the oldest on the seniority roster.

In some of their occupational features, there is a mark similarity. Both men began their railroad career in the same year, both live in Boston and are at present running on the same train, but in others there is a definite contract.

Porter Hughes, the older of the two, started out with the old Wagner Palace Car Company, and before that had served in the U.S. Navy as a gunner's mate.

JUL 8 1942

During his half-century of portering he has had experience in every class of car service that Pullman operates. He now travels on the New Haven's Merchants' Limited between Boston and New York.

On the other hand, Porter Wright, called Kid Wright by everyone, has spent all of his fifty-year service on the New Haven Railroad, where he started as a waterboy.

While he is credited with a half-century of Pullman service, his connection with it actually dates back to 1912 or the year that Pullman took over the parlor and sleeping service of the railroad.

An over-enthusiastic newspaper man, writing in the Boston Globe several years ago, described Eugene Roundtree, another New Haven veteran, as being Pullman's "best porter," an appraisal that didn't meet the unanimous approval of all New Haven porters.

The "best porter," they said, was an indefinite distinction, and was hard to find. It is not denied, however, that both Porters Hughes and Wright come within that category.

JUL 8 1942

In addition to the luncheon, the veteran porters were the recipients of gold service buttons, inlaid with two small diamonds, the Pullman token for fifty-year employees.

* * *

LOCAL ELECTION

Beginning on July 8 and extending to July 16, the election of officers for the New York Division of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters will be held at the headquarters of the union, 217 W. 125th St The election committee are
J. R. Carey, chair
bert and Harry Br

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

2 Negroes Named On New York City Board Of Barber Examiners

AUG 1 5 1942

Two Harlem barbers were honored recently when they were appointed by Mayor LaGuardia as members of the 24-man New York City Board of Barber Examiners, the new licensing agency that passes upon the qualifications of all barbers in New York City.

The Harlem barbers are David Stewart, proprietor of the Esquire Barber Shop, 2265 Seventh avenue and Bill Garrett, proprietor of Garrett's Barber Shop, 2311 Seventh avenue. They have already served on the board and on Monday, August 10, sat in review of over 800 cases. Their board has the exclusive right to grant working certificates only to barbers who have passed rigid tests as to their qualifications.

AUG 1 5 1942

Both Harlem members are owners and managers of their shops which are among the finest in this section. Many outstanding personalities are among the patrons of their shops.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Macy's Department Store Hires Negroes

Nov 27, 1942

NEW YORK — (ANP) — Macy's, largest retail organization of its kind in the world, announced this week that it had begun hiring Negroes as sales and clerical workers. The new policy at the famous department store is believed to be the first time a downtown store has hired Negroes in other than menial capacities.

The new employment order which has been described as "Macy's" contribution to the effort to make democracy work at home," was annuonced after a series of conferences between officials of the store and leaders of the United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employes union.

Nov. 27, 1942

"We are hiring people on a basis of merit and qualification, regardless of race, creed or color," said a representative of the store.

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Capt. Mulzac Gets Assignment To Command Mixed Crew

SEP 1 9 1942

Captain Hugh Mulzac, heretofore overlooked skipper, has been assigned to a ship. This progressive step is the result of a delegation which visited Commissioner Edward Macauley of the Maritime Commission and showed him an advertisement for licensed officers to man the Merchant Marines and then asked him what he intended to do about Captain Mulzac, veteran Negro seaman. The delegation further requested that a ship be assigned to the captain and that a mixed crew of Negro and white officers and men be assigned and that the *Booker T. Washington* be the ship commanded by Mulzac. Commissioner Macauley agreed to all of these demands and instructed Captain Mulzac to line up his crew preparatory to sailing.

Captain Mulzac, licensed to master steam vessels of any tonnage in all waters, has already gone to work and secured his chief engineer, radio operator and chief mate, all of whom are Negroes, and the National Maritime Union is assisting in lining up the most competent crew available.

SEP 1 9 1942

At the NMU office, Captain Mulzac stated that "the goods will reach our embattled allies and that American seamen of all colors and creeds will deliver them."

Members of the delegation responsible for the move were: Charles A. Collins, executive secretary, Negro Labor Victory Committee; Theodore A. Jackson, president, Dining Car Employees Union, local 370, AFL; Al Bland, organizer, International Fur and Leather Workers Union, CIO; John Goodman, secy.-treas., local 144, BSEIU, AFL; Tom Astwood, vice president and organizer, Cafeteria Employees Union, local 302, AFL; James Alston, business rep., Meat Cutters Union, local 623, AFL, and Captain Hugh Mulzac, skipper.

This delegation of trade unionists, lead by the Negro Labor Victory Committee of Greater NY, also called on Marvin McIntyre, secretary to President Roosevelt, on September 9 to present a petition calling upon the President to issue a proclamation against lynching, discrimination, segregation in jobs and in the armed forces and to state specifically the status of 13 million Negro Americans in the war.

The group suggested that the President devote a fireside chat solely to the question. For about an hour the delegation discussed the wave of terror and violence that is being organized in the poll-tax states by Talmadge, Wilkinson, Dixon and the Ku Klux Klan.

Negro Captain to Be Given Ship Command

Daily Worker-N.Y. N.Y.

SEP 1 2 1942 SEP 1 2 1942

By Eugene Gordon

Hugh Mulzac, 56-year-old Negro marine captain, is going to be taken out of the cook's galley and put in charge of a ship carrying war materials to our anti-fascist allies.

Commissioner Edward McCauley, of the National Maritime Commission, yesterday wired the delegation of trade unionists which called on him Tuesday that a ship will be assigned the Negro skipper "as soon as a crew can be lined up." He suggested that Mulzac immediately procure application forms and get to work lining up unassigned officers and seamen.

SEP 1 2 1942

Captain Mulzac, declaring himself "very happy," announced yesterday that he had already signed up a Negro chief engineer and a Negro radio operator. The man who for years had pleaded in vain for the Maritime Commission to give him this chance said also that the full crew of his ship would be Negro and white.

The delegation which visited McCauley Tuesday included Theodore Jackson, president, Dining Car Employees Union, Local 370, AFL; John Goodman, secretary-treasurer, Hotel Front Service, Local 144, AFL, Al Bland, business agent, International Fur and Leather Workers Union, CIO; Tom Asterwood, vice-president and organizer, Local 302, Cafeteria Union; James Alston Meat Cutters Union; Charles Collins, business agent, Hotel and Club Union, Local 6, AFL, and executive secretary of the Negro Labor Victory Committee.

Commissioner McCauley told this delegation Tuesday that he agreed with its protest that competent men were too badly needed to allow one of Captain Mulzac's qualifications to go begging. Mulzac has been declared qualified, as a result of stiff competitive examinations based on his experience, to sail a ship of any size on any ocean.

He was born March 20, 1886, in St. Vincent, British West Indies He came to the United States in 1911, becoming a citizen seven years later. He graduated from the U. S. Shipping Board School as a first officer.

SEP 1 2 1942

Frederick H. Myers, vice-president of the National Maritime Union, assured Captain Mulzac yesterday that the union, "in line with its policy of no discrimination," would cooperate in every possible way to provide "a full mixed crew." He said that the NMU would intercede with the coordinator of the Maritime Commission here "to remove all obstacles in the way of immediate assignment of the ship" to Captain Mulzac.

35g-1942

FILES FOR POSTMASTER JOB IN N. C.

Pittsburgh Courier

Pittsburgh, Pa.

MAR 21 1942

CHARLOTTE, N. C., Mar. 19—Trezzvant W. Anderson, former railway mail clerk recently fired from the postal service last week filed his application with the U. S. Civil Service commission for the $6,000 per year job as postmaster in this city, marking the first time a Negro ever sought the job. Mar. 10th, was the last day for filing.

As he filed his application, Mr. Anderson submitted a personal statement to Harry Mitchell, president of the commission, in which he charged that his removal from the railway mail service was not so much because of the charge of intoxication and misconduct as it was for the personal dislike and attempts of John D. Hardy, general superintendent of the railway mail service, to smear him because high postal officials were displeased with him because of the way he exposed failures to promote Negroes to higher bracket jobs.

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

N. C. MAN WORKED FOR 12 GOVERNORS

Nov. 13, 1942

RALEIGH, N. C.—Governors of North Carolina come and go but 68-year-old David Haywood apparently goes on and on.

During his 50-year tenure as a household servant in the executive mansion at Raleigh, Haywood has served 12 of the state's chief executives—a record he believes is unequaled anywhere in the nation.

Of the 13 governors he has served only five survive the aged servant.

Mr. Haywood stated that he went to the mansion on the recommendation of Alston Dunstan, now deceased, who was a porter in the Secretary of State's office. His first employer was the late Gov. Elias Carr, and each incoming chief executive since then has retained his services.

Mr. Haywood recalls that since he first served Gov. Carr, he has waited on: Daniel Russell, Charles B. Aycock, Robert G. Glenn, William W. Kitchen, Locke Craig, Thomas W. Bickett, Cameron Morrison, Angus Witon McLean, O. M. Gardner, J. C. B. Ehringhaus, Clyde R. Hoey and J. M. Broughton. Only the latter are now living.

Although Mr. Haywood is eligible to retire under state law and draw a pension, he does not choose to take life easy. He is very active and in good health and performed his duties as he has in the past 50 years.

35g-1942
Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

OHIO

BREAK SIGNAL CORPS CLASS COLOR BAN

Women Admitted In Cleveland After Protests

Nov. 28, 1942

CLEVELAND. — (ANP)— After complaints had been filed with the United States Employment service, the Future Outlook league and the Cleveland Call-Post, eight girls were admitted this week to the United States Signal corps classes set up at Cass school.

A war department aide had earlier refused admittance to the young women because they are Negroes.

The girls had been sent telegrams of appointment to the school by the signal corps for training in aircraft radio laboratory techniques at $125 per month. Upon completion of the course they were to have been advanced to $135 per month.

When they reported to the school, R. C. Dudeck, sent from headquarters in Dayton to form the class, refused to admit them.

Ordered to "Get Out"

Misses Leona Walker and Katherine Austin objected to the obvious discrimination and were told by Dudeck that "These girls are from the South and are not accustomed to sitting in the same class with Negroes."

Miss Austin challenged Dudeck's authority to exclude them and was ordered to "get out."

Other complainants who filed affidavits were Misses Hattie Doxey, Emma R. Williamson, Rotha Calhoun, Gertrude Gorman, Helen Granger and Sally Mae Russell.

Dudeck is reported to have denied he practiced discrimination against the women, and said he had not separated the whites from the Negroes as charged by the women.

He said all the girls were admitted to the class who had been properly certified, but added he was forced to turn away all of the Negroes because he was limited to selection of 60 persons. He failed to explain how not a single white was rejected.

Tells Cleveland War Workers That Their Records Of Production Are Excellent But Are Not Perfect

Nov. 28, 1942

CLEVELAND, Ohio.—"Your record is excellent, but it is not perfect. No human effort is perfect. We are all human, and subject to human frailties. Our job, instead, is to seek perfection, and to rebuke ourselves when we backslide and let our country down. Our job is not to criticize the other fellow, but to criticize ourselves," said Major Orlan Page to AFL and CIO workers during his tour of forty Cleveland war plants.

Major Page, a Negro officer, and member of the 184th Field Artillery, is on special assignment. He is a graduate of the University of Chicago, and the battery officers' course of the Artillery School, Fort Sill, Okla. He was commended for his work on maneuvers in Louisiana in 1941 and has recently been stationed at Fort Custer, Mich.

His speech follows:

"My job today is to represent the combat forces of the United States Army at this meeting.

"My special job is to represent those regiments and divisions of the Army composed of Negro officers and men.

"Many of you workers here at this meeting have relatives serving in those regiments. You know that they are chalking up a record of which every American can be proud.

"Thousands of Americans of all races, all religions and all national extractions are serving overseas. Many have died. Many are prisoners of the enemy. Many have been decorated for bravery in action.

"Over there, in the foxholes of islands in the Pacific, and in the training camps of the British Isles, it doesn't make much difference where a soldier's grandparents came from, or the color of his skin. Some of the bravest fighting men our country ever raised spoke the German language before they learned to speak English. When they put on the uniform of Uncle Sam, they became American soldiers—the best soldiers in the world.

"In round numbers, ten per cent of the population of the United States is composed of Americans whose skin is darker than that of the majority. In the armed forces, roughly the same percentage of Negro Americans are serving with valor and distinction.

"The new military highway to Alaska was finished months ahead of time, partly as a result of the splendid work of Negro Engineers.

"At Fort McClellan, Alabama, the Army recently activated the 92nd Division, an all-Negro outfit which carries the name of the unit which, as the Buffalo Division, helped smash the German war machine in the Meuse-Argonne offensive during the World War. It won many citations and awards.

"At Fort Huachuca, Arizona, we are training another splendid Negro unit, the 93rd Division.

"The famous 9th and 10th Cavalry regiments are composed of Negro Americans. Negroes are serving in every branch of the Army.

"I'd like to tell you just one story to show how Negro soldiers meet the test of courage.

Cites Soldier's Heroism

"Privates Julius S. Franklin of Charleston, S. C., Harvey M. Crandle of Greenville, S. C., and James Scott of Montgomery, Ala., saw an American fighter plane crash in flames in a river in the midst of a jungle somewhere in the Pacific theater of war.

"They knew that river was infested with crocodiles. They jumped into the water, and brought the pilot of that plane ashore. They were decorated with the Soldier's Medal for heroism.

"Dispatches from London tell how Negro troops reacted when they underwent their first bombing raid in England. When a bomb fell in the street, two of the Negro soldiers flung themselves in front of a group of civilians to protect them from flying fragments.

"Here in Cleveland, you are showing your mettle, too. In all sectors of the home front, Americans whose skin carries a darker pigmentation than the majority, are working and fighting to speed arms and equipment overseas so that no American soldier, white or colored, Jew or Gentile, Catholic or Protestant, Nordic or Latin, will sacrifice his life because he didn't have enough munitions or supplies.

"Here in this factory, me nof all races are working together to turn out the implements of war. On the whole, the record of this plant is one of which you can all be proud.

Nov. 28, 1942

"We don't like war. We didn't ask for this one. The Japs gave it to us, Now, we're going to give it back to the Japs and Nazis. We're going to fight this World Series on their home ground.

"You can take it from me that the Field Artillery regiment in which I serve, and the regiments which your sons and brothers serve in, are going to do our darndest to be the best regiments. We are itching to get into action. The morale of our troops is of the highest.

"You won't find us going AWOL because we had so much money to spend on pay day that we couldn't get back on the job the next day. You won't find us out drinking too much beer or liquor when there's fighting, or drilling, or work to be done. I can promise you that when we go into action, we will give them everything we've got.

"We know the folks on the home front are going to back us with everything they've got. We know it, because we can see it in your faces, and in the way you tackle your jobs.

"God bless you all. Believe me when I say from the bottom of my heart:

"Together, we Americans are going to show this guy Hitler and his Japanese allies how a nation composed of free and equal citizens of all races can unite when military gangsters try to take away our freedom.

"Free labor can win this war. Men who love freedom will win it."

35g-1942

OHIO

The Ohio State News for July 11, 1942 reports that Western Union officials in Columbus, Ohio will hire Negro messenger boys. The Vanguard League of Columbus have sent applications to the Western Union office there, and plan to encourage them to share the messenger jobs between white and colored boys.

35g-1942

OKLAHOMA

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

75 NEGRO CARPENTERS WANTED AT TULSA

FEB 21 1942

Steady Work Guaranteed by Union at $1.25 Per Hour

TULSA—A statement was issued Monday by N. W. Simmons, business agent for Carpenters Union Local Number 810, that he could use about 75 Negro carpenters at $1.25 per hour if they will report to his office in Tulsa immediately. Mr. Simmons' office is located at 325 North Elgin, and his Phone number is 3-8796.

"We are paying $1.25 per hour on this government contract and my biggest trouble is to secure competent Negro carpenters" said Simmons.

FEB 21 1942

"We will accept carpenters from any section of Oklahoma" said the business agent in discussing his difficulty. He asked that one of three things be done, come, write or phone hi

35g-1942

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Shortage Of Motormen Offers Opportunity For Colored Men

MAR 21 1942

THE Philadelphia Transportation Corporation is facing a shortage of motormen to run its trolley and subway cars.

For some "mysterious" reason this is an occupation barred to men of African descent. The P. T. C. employs large numbers of colored workers, but there is something sacred in Philadelphia about the steering wheels of busses and the throttles of street cars which only white hands may touch.

This same sacredness, however, does not obtain in several other American cities, because colored men do drive busses and subway cars in the most complex transportation system in the world—the City of New York.

We have often wondered why in the City of Philadelphia this caste system should exist. Surely it is not because colored men lack the ability to run busses and trolleys.

MAR 21 1942

Perhaps it is because the type of leadership the colored people have in Philadelphia. Our leadership is woefully lacking in aggressiveness. Cities like New York secure rights and privileges because the people back up a vigorous leadership. It is time for new leaders in Philadelphia—Men and women who will think in terms of the masses of people.

The time has gone when the people will be satisfied with a pat on the back or a spineless leadership which is satisfied so long as they have full stomachs. The time is ripe for progress and racial advancement. But before advancement comes, a lot of heads must be chopped off.

We would have colored motormen and conductors, judges and everything else if we would liquidate our pres- leadership.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

NAACP Gets Jobs For Skilled Men In Autocar Plant

JUL 1942

BRYN MAWR, Pa.-(SNS)-After more than a year of effort, Negro skilled workers are on the payroll at the Autocar company in Ardmore, the Bryn Mawr NAACP reported last week. Six men are at work on the assembly line, four men in the machine sohp and four working as paint sprayers. The plant has a government contract.

Warren F. Chew, president of the Bryn Mawr NAACP states that teh branch was aided by the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice in getting the commitment from the company to hire Negroes in skilled capacities.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Tribune Pushed Fight

SEP 12 1942

The Philadelphia TRIBUNE'S conference with labor leaders of a few weeks back continues to bear fruit.

Concrete evidence that the labor leaders present meant what they said and are determined to aid in securing employment for colored labor was revealed last week with the employment of two colored women by the Eby plant at 4700 Stenton avenue.

The TRIBUNE in position to reveal that the Bendix Aviation plan here, one of the "toughest nuts" to crack, is now employing colored men and women.

The Bendix personnel office has requested the local USES to send colored applicants out and has told Joseph Dunphy, of the local USES offices, 53 north Broad street, that the management intends to hire colored workers in every department, including the assembly line.

Female high school graduates, between 22 and 28, are to be taught to operate machines at a rate of 55c per hour, with males of the same qualification receiving 60c per hour while learning.

SEP 12 1942

The General Electric has also decided to employ colored men, according to Dunphy, in the lower grades as laborers.

35g-1942

South Carolina

Columbia S. C. State
November 3, 1942

WARNING MADE GOOD.

Governor Jefferies had announced on more than one occasion that labor solicitors operating in South Carolina would be arrested if detected. Apparently two men from Florida didn't read the papers or didn't believe everything they saw. They came into Lake City and carried off a couple of loads of Negroes. But on another try they bumped into the law and officers placed them under arrest on $500 bond each.

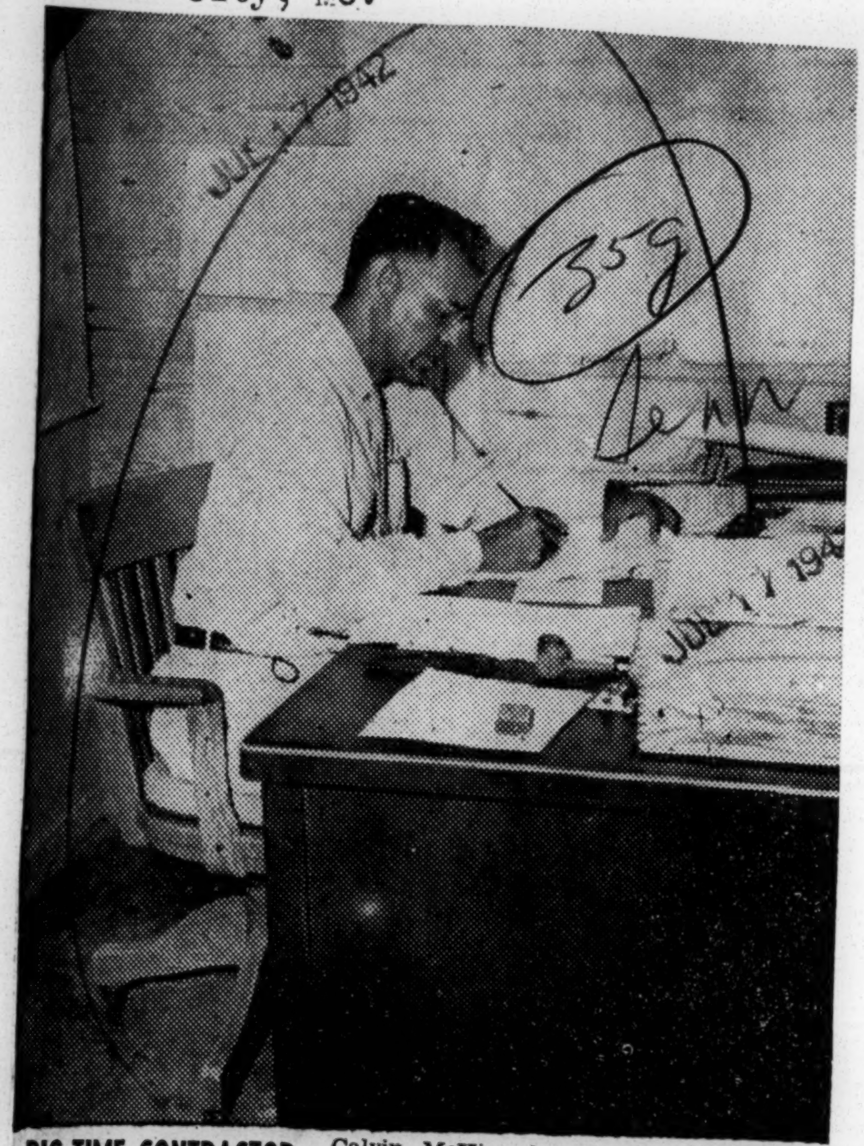
Workers in the rural districts are not so plentiful that they can be spared for other states. If moving is necessary there is plenty for them to do in South Carolina. And the governor is entirely right in enforcing the law against this underhanded, undermining practice of labor pirating.

While so far no federal agents have been apprehended in this state — though some have been reported as operating within South Carolina — it is this newspaper's opinion that they are as liable to arrest as are unlicensed private solicitors of labor. We are not trying to take over the duties of the attorney general, but it is our idea of the law that while federal solicitors, if arrested, might ultimately demand, and receive, trial in federal court, there is no other difference under the law between them and the private violators of the state statutes.

35g-1942

TENNESSEE

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.



JUL 17 1942

35g

Tenn

BIG-TIME CONTRACTOR— Calvin McKissack, one of the brothers making up the contracting firm, McKissack and McKissack, is shown here at his desk at the Tuskegee Army Flying school the construction contract for which went to the McKissacks. The McKissack brothers were born in the small town of Pulaski, Tenn. Today they are among the largest contractors in the South, regardless of race.

When in the early summer of 1941, the contract for construction of the big building program for the new Tuskegee Army Flying school was to be awarded, friends, both white and colored, urged that the contract be given to the McKissack brothers. After convincing the authorities they could handle the big financial angles of the contract, the brothers were awarded the job. As it later developed, this was only about one-third of what has been awarded to date. But the McKissack brothers have made good here and have been awarded two additional contracts which include the entire building program for the new field.

Calvin McKissack says, "If a job is well done, it will be shown by repeated calls for our firm to do more. I judge a man by his ability to do a job, by the time it takes and the manner in which it is done. We employ all classes of workers, from common labor to highly skilled mechanics."

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

First C. and O. Railway Clerk Dies Month After Retirement

JAN 3 - 1942

359

NEWPORT NEWS—George W. Fitzgerald, veteran employe of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company, died at Riverside Hospital, last Friday morning after a brief illness.

The deceased was placed on the retirement list December 1, last, after 57 years service with the company, and enjoyed the distinction of being the first and only member of his race to hold a clerical position with the company.

RAILROAD CAREER

A native of Burkeville in Nottoway County, Va., he came here September 5, 1884, when a boy of 16, and filled the following positions with the railroad: port reader, unloading clerk, and seal clerk.

Skilled also in carpentry and masonry, his hobby was cabinet making and he entered an attractive china press at the Jamestown exhibition in 1907. He was holder of the company's diamond pin and the C. and O. Veterans Association pin.

JAN 3 - 1942

It had been less than a month since he'd given up active duty with the Chesapeake and Ohio to retire to his home at 2123 Marshall Avenue with the remark that he was "just going to stay home and rest," and keep up his property, consisting of a house and attractive lot bought with his earnings and built in 1902.

LAST RITES

Final service was held Sunday afternoon at the First Baptist Church, Twenty-third Street and Jefferson Avenue, of which the 74-year-old railway employee was a deacon. The pastor, the Rev. A. A. Galvin, officiated, assisted by the Revs. J. E. Tynes and J. Metz Rollins.

JAN 3 - 1942

Active pallbearers were members of the Masonic Lodge; honorary pallbearers were deacons of the church. Burial followed in the family plot in Pleasant Shade cemetery.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Lizzie B. Fitzgerald; one brother, Robert Fitzgerald of Crewe; a step-son, Harold P. Hunt, of Richmond, and other relatives.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Poorly Paid State Employees

JAN 31 1942

WORD comes from Petersburg that women attendants at the State Hospital for the Insane work for as low as $30 per month and that the hours are from six to six—constituting twelve hours of continuous labor at approximately 12 cents per hour. These workers are excluded from the benefits of Social Security. They are not covered by the Fair Labor Standards Acts as to wages and hours, unemployment compensation, or old age insurance.

The State of Virginia, it is known, closed its books for 1941 with an unusually large surplus. This is good, but it is also fair and human that its workers, in all parts of the state's service receive a fair wage. The cost of living has already risen about 20 percent over a year ago, and the indications are that there is in prospect another rise of approximately 25 percent. It is only reasonable to suggest that in holding its workers to the wages now paid for this work at the State Hospital the state government is exposing them to undue hardships.

JAN 31 1942

For a person working 72 to 86 hours a week $30 per month is a scant wage. It is only fair to say that such a wage is out of line with what is being done by a majority of industries — at least those engaged in interstate commerce. It is not unreasonable to assume that a humanitarian government will find a place somewhere between the current practices of industry and enlightened policies of good government for these unfortunate workers once the matter is brought to the attention of the proper authorities.

JAN 31

According to reports, appeals to the administrators of the State Hospital have availed nothing. The hospital operates on a budget, of course and there is small chance for raises in wages in the interim between making up of budgets. As the budget for the next biennium is already made up it is likely that appeal may have to be made directly to our new Governor Darden for the relief of these hapless employees of the State Hospital.

In seeking to ascertain if a bill introduced by Delegate Newton of Dinwiddie County, designed to raise salaries of state employees, would embrace such employees as those at the Central State Hospital, we were informed that it did not, but that another bill may be introduced which would cover them. It would be a fine and just thing if that were done, and a statesmanlike action by Delegate Newton if he acts as the patron for such a bill.

10

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Colored Worker Is Pride of Va. College

MAY 2 - 1942

359

WILLIAMSBURG, Va.—Every great American institution of learning has some individual who, in the passing of time, has become as much a part of the history of the institution as the buildings and grounds on which they stand. William and Mary College here, is no exception.

Henry Billups, who began working at the school in 1888 when he was eighteen years of age, is the oldest employee still on the school's payroll from point of service.

When he began working at William and Mary as a waiter, stoves were used in all dormitory rooms, wood and water had to be carried to each room in the afternoon and oil lamps provided light, Mr. Billups now recalls.

Official Bell Ringer

After two years as a waiter, Mr. Billups became janitor and has served most of the past fifty-four years as janitor in charge of the school's landmark, the Wren Building, as official college bell ringer and as mail messenger.

Familiarly known as Doc Billups to the thousands of students who have passed through the institution during his tour of service there, he is always looked up and greeted whenever they return to the campus.

MAY 2 - 1942

Honored by Alumni

Col. John W. Wright, a member of the Class of 1895, presented him a gold watch and chain and a gold bell and seal of the college in 1935 on behalf of the alumni. Colonel Wright said, in making the presentation that he found Mr. Billups to be the only link that reached back forty years connecting the old and new William and Mary.

His longest absence from his duties on the campus occurred at the time of the Jamestown Exposition, when he was away two weeks. He has missed only a few days due to natural illness and was absent once for ten days as the result of an auto accident.

MAY 2 - 1942

150,000 Tolls

Still official college bell ringer, Mr. Billups is so punctual that local citizens set their clocks by the bell. Although he does not recall how many ropes he has worn out in the task, it has been estimated that he has rung the bell nearly 150,000 times in fifty-four years.

When the Rockefellers undertook the restoration of Williamsburg, Mr. Billups was one of the fortunate local citizens who were able to sell their homesteads for handsome sums. He built a beautiful new home across the street from the college campus where he now resides with his wife and son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Henderson.

MAY 2 1942

Football Enthusiast

Mr. Billups votes in every election and was the first colored citizen to serve on a grand jury here. He is a member of First Baptist Church and the Elks' Lodge. His hobbies are football games and gardening.

35g-1942

WASHINGTON

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Boeing Hires First Negro Stenographer

FEB 21 1942

35-9

SEATTLE, Wash. (ANP)—Miss Florise Spearman began work at the offices of the Boeing Aircraft company here last week as a stenographer. She is the first and only Negro employed at the concern which has been a focal point for complaints by the OPM and Fair Employment Practice committee.

Boeing asked a local employment center for six colored stenographers. Miss Spearman was the first to apply. She passed the examination and has expressed herself as being appreciative of the treatment accorded her by both officials and fellow employes. Miss Spearman is well experienced and was a student at the University of Washington.

FEB 21 1942

35g-1942

WEST VIRGINIA

5 NEGROES ON MINE BOARDS

APR 25 1942

Pittsburgh Courier

LOGAN, W. Va., Apr. 23—(ANP)—With the appointment of John H. Harris of Holden, Logan county, as a member of Mine Examing Board Number Five, five Negro West Virginians have been appointed as members of West Virginia Mine Examining boards.

Pittsburgh

PA

Mr. Harris, long active in civic and labor circles, received his early training in Alaba. As a member of Mine Examining Board No. 5, he will examine applicants for mine certificates in Logan, Mingo, Lincoln and Wayne counties. He is 47 years of age and married.

35h-1942
Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Boys Tell Jackson Of Hardships On Florida Farm Under Armed Boss; One Boy Reported Killed

OCT 21 1942

OCT 21 1942

OCT 21 1942

By EMORY O. JACKSON

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(SNS)— Three local boys who said that they had slipped away from "cane farms" near Clewiston, Fla., related to me Wednesday their hard experiences in the mosquito-infested glades under a gun-toting boss.

In addition to their story, I have the report that a lad, Arthur Lee Shuford, was killed on one of these "farms" and his body shipped back home.

Another youth, Carol Bunkley, lay perilously sick, one of the interviewed boys said, on one of the farms with no chance to get away.

OCT 21 1942

A mother, not one of the 15 putting their names on affidavits, came into the office Wednesday in distress, for she said her son was on a Florida "farm" and that the mail she was receiving from him was "not his hand writing."

The youths I interviewed were: Lieutenant Paige, 16, of 804 Sage Row, Brighton, Ala. Paige said that he was expelled from the Woodward school last year, and that at the time he was in the fourth grade. Walter Wouldfolk, 19, 1450 Hickman St., Brighton. He said he was expelled from Brighton school in the eighth grade. Ed Croon, 16, 4604 Huntsville Ave., Brighton. He quit Brighton school in the sixth grade when his father died to take care of his mother and two sisters, he said.

OCT 21 1942

I read a memographed sheet distributed by the United States Employment Services, 601 19th Street Ensley, giving information about the "United States Sugar Corporation. The sheet said the USES "does not assume any responsibility except to recruit these workers. "The information said that around 500 workers from 16 to 60, were needed and that girls would be paid $1.65 and boys $2.00 for a nine-hour days work. Transportation was to be "free."

The three I interviewed said that around 48 were transported on the truck that hauled them to Florida and that about 500 school-age youths were on the farm with them. They said that there were several farms in this section.

OCT 21 1942

In arriving, they were served meals, rice or grits, sardines and bread, that menu three times a day, every day.

One could eat at the mess hall for $4.00 a week or buy from the commissary for $5.00. They were not cut through the office, but could buy meal tickets or pay the man who ran the place at the window on payday.

They said that the boys had to sleep on double-deck bunks which had no cover, sleeping in their clothes as protection against mosquitoes. The girls had bunks with no upper decks.

Boys took up with girls they said, living with them as man and wife, with many contracting diseases, but that the infected were treated every Friday at a clinic. A girl, one boy said, who was "cute" did not have to work, for the boys would keep her up just to sleep in the bed with her. A girl "acting that way" could leave the "camp" easily but a boy couldn't, except those wanted by the draft board.

OCT 21 1942

The three boys said that they were threatened, beaten and dared, and that while working the "boss" would stay behind you 'googing' you." Except for the boss men, they said there were no white workers on the "farm." One of the "boss men," they said, was from Birmingham.

Wouldfolk said that "I lived on sugar cane for almost a week" and that other boys were "sick from hunger."

Reason that he went hungry, Wouldfolk said, was that he could not eat the food prepared by the "farm" cooks or that he did not have any money. They were paid off by the month, he said, but on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday a worker could "check out his money" up to $9 if he had worked every day. The employer, he continued, would take out for "your fare down there."

Mail sent to the boys came to a box, Wouldfolk said, where it was picked up by "Governor," identified as a Negro, apparently a "stooge." The mail was either opened or undelivered. No mail coming from home except airmail specials had been received, he said.

OCT 21 1942

Wouldfolk said that his fare came in an airmail special, and that he gave "Governor" fifty cents to help him get his money order cashed. He said that he did not let anyone know that he planned to use the money to "run away from the camp." So he slipped away.

OCT 21 1942

He said that if you went to the bus or railroad station, the police had orders to jail you, and that several boys had been locked up trying to leave for home.

OCT 21 1942

The other two boys used a ruse to get away, one playing blind.

msterdam Star-News
New York. N. Y.

LAWYER WARNS M'NUTT ON SHIFTING WORKERS

NOV 7 - 1942

Many Have Fled Brutal Conditions in South, He Says, Citing War-Time Heroism

Editor's Note: William Henry Huff, Chicago attorney and chief counsel for the Committee to Abolish Peonage in America, recently wrote a letter to Manpower Commissioner Paul V. McNutt calling his attention to the possibility of Negroes being subjected to abusive treatment in the South in event colored workers are shifted to the South under the contemplated move to put workers in places where they are most needed. The letter is exhaustive and comprehensive. We reprint it herewith.

October 28, 1942.

Honorable Paul V. McNutt,
Social Security Administrator,
Social Security Building,
Washington, D. C.

3-

NOV 7 - 1942

Dear Sir:

Some time ago I wrote you reminding you that the freezing of labor might mean the freezing of hundreds of thousands of Negro citizens to a condition of peonage.

I was happy to receive your very courteous reply. Today there is much talk about and much concern in the proposed legislation giving your office authority to shift workers from one section of the country to another, where they will labor under private individuals.

I wish to call your attention to a possible source of vice in any such proposition. Many Negroes now living happily on this side of Mason's and Dixon's line have come to these parts as refugees from horrible conditions existing in many sections south of that line. Some have come between moons to prevent bloodthirsty brutes from lynching them. Many, many have come because they had, through intimidation and the lash, been held to a condition of peonage. Hundreds of thousands have come because on this side there are schools wherein their children may be educated, as all Americans should be. And untold numbers have come in order that they and their children might escape from the action of the one-sided kangaroo courts in many sections of those parts.

Negroes Offer Lives on Battlefield

Negroes in this crisis, as in all our previous wars, are freely offering the last full measure of devotion to the country, and they are doing so as willingly and as freely as any other group of citizens in the country. They are willing to meet and lock horns with Hitler, the Japs and all the other Axis, but they look with loathing upon any proposition to send them South to plant, plow, hoe and pick cotton for those who are too rotten lazy to plant, plow, hoe and pick it for themselves, and yet insist upon lynching, burning, ruling and robbing those who do the work for them.

NOV 7 - 1942

Any movement to send any number of Negro civilians South for purposes mentioned above will, in my opinion, result in an explosion which will be read about all down the corridors of time. In other words, I can but foresee a general saternalia of hell if any such unwise policy is adopted!

North Is Haven for Oglethorpe County Refugees.

For instance, there are a great number of refugees from peonage from Oglethorpe County, Georgia, now living, working and educating their children in Chicago, Cincinnati, Baltimore and other points. What if an order should come down commanding that they be taken back to the cotton fields of Georgia or to any other section where peonage is rife? Many of them would, in my opinion, be lynched—first, for making their escape, and, second, for telling the Government's agents about the peonage conditions. And whose head would the blood be upon?

I have seen with these eyes of mine bloodhounds eating the flesh from the ankles of two Negroes who were trying to escape from the peonage farm of old Jim (Col. James Monroe) Smith of Oglethorpe County, Georgia. I saw two irresponsible young overseers whip old man Prince Bolton, a 200-pound Negro, until he was unable to draw his own tongue into his mouth—and this was on an exceedingly hot day. This, too, was in Oglethorpe County, Georgia. I saw a Negro hitched to a buggy, alongside a horse, and two Oglethorpians riding in the buggy whipping the Negro to make him keep step with the horse. I have a file made in the Woods-McCannon extradition case wherein witness after witness testified that a present-day peonage overlord in Oglethorpe County whipped a Negro woman to insensibility with a buggy whip 30 days before she gave birth to a baby—where the same peonage overlord whipped a man down with a wagon wheel spoke and then shot the poor Negro, as well as the Negro's son, when the son ran up to see the last of his father. This heartless overlord did not, according to the witness, stop at that, but he shot both the father and the son, then sent them to the little dirty jail to recuperate, and thence to the Oglethorpe County, Georgia, chain gang. And the most ridiculous part of the whole thing is that all this whipping, shooting, jailing and chain ganging is said to have been committed because the Negro father objected to his half-witted son's eating watermelon over which the overlord's wife had slobbered.

NOV 7 - 1942

Atrocities too Numerous to Mention

To enumerate the atrocities leveled upon the heads of innocent and defenseless Negroes by the members of that rotten courthouse ring of Oglethorpe County, Georgia, alone would take reams of paper and volumes of books. Although I have been in these parts 34 years, I know what I am talking about, for I have kept in close touch with happenings in my native state and county.

Neither the State of Georgia, the County of Oglethorpe, nor any political division of that county has ever spent as much as one dollar toward the building of a school house in that county for Negroes—not since the world began. How could anybody think of sending Negroes to such sections from the good public elementary and high schools of such states as Indiana, Illinois, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania and even Virginia and North Carolina? It must not be done!

I personally appealed to Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt to use her good offices toward getting a high school for Negroes in Oglethorpe County, Georgia. She, in turn, kindly appealed to a certain foundation, and it now looks as if there may be such school erected. I hope so.

Oglethorpe County Symbol of South

I have said much about Oglethorpe County, Georgia. I have done so for two reasons: first, because I know the conditions there, and, second, because that county is a symbol of conditions in many counties in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, South Carolina, Texas and in isolated places in two or three other states.

Negroes ought not be sent back into conditions such as I have mentioned, and peonage must be abolished.

NOV 7 - 1942

Very truly yours,

William Henry Huff,

WHH:KR **Chief Counsel, Abolish Peonage Committee of America.**

35h-1942

ALABAMA

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Parole Board Blacklists 100 Farm Owners

FEB 25 1942

Probation Officer Says Freed Convicts Are Treated As Peons

Working conditions approaching peonage were described here yesterday in a declaration by Earl Adams, Montgomery County probation officer, in which he accused individual farmers of abusing Alabama's revised parole system, inaugurated about two and a half years ago. He referred to the phase of the parole system which grants a State prisoner under probation the opportunity to work for an employer approved by the parole board.

FEB 25 1942

His condemnation was based on investigations which he said had disclosed that certain farmers, cattlemen and sawmill operators, had agreed to give employment to probationers, and paid them inadequate wages and subjected them to unfair working conditions under threat of causing their return to prison.

In practically every instance of this practice, the prohabtioner was ignorant of the provisions of his probation which granted him the privilege of working under conditions for his own betterment and in accord with his own personal wishes, Mr. Adams said.

"The abuse of the practice of hiring parolees has become so bad, in certain instances," he said, "that we now have a blacklist of approximately 100 rural employers in whose watchcare and employ we will not place parolees under any condition.

"While the practice is an old one, it had practically disappeared in recent years but has been revived with the current scarcity of labor because of the migration of farm laborers to the field of defense industry. At present, he revival presents a problem," he said. He also reported an increasing demand for parolee labor on the farm as cotton and peanut planting season draws nearer and with a scarcity of men qualified to perform agricultural work. Requests for such labor are made daily, he added.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

A PROPER "BLACK-LIST"

Farmers and turpentine operators who have so little sympathy for their fellow-human beings as to mistreat a man who is on parole have been "black-listed" by the State Pardon and Parole Board.

It is natural that there would be some persons who would assume that because a man has once been convicted of a crime it is proper to continue the punishment indefinitely. This is particularly true if the punishment puts more money into the pocket of the person who has "kindly" given a parolee a job.

FEB 27 1942

Alabamians are reminded again that the State's pardon and parole system is aimed at the rehabilitation of human beings and their return to normal civil life. In every case where a prisoner is paroled he or she must have a job waiting. Once the State has designed that formal confinement should be ended, it would be a tragedy for ruthless employers to take advantage of the parolee's status and brow-beat and threaten him with a "bad report" if he did not work longer hours for less pay than other workers are paid.

Unfortunately Alabama has not made provision for a sufficient number of parole officers, but with the number of staff officials available an excellent job is being done. The pardon and parole system is based upon two sound principles:

1. Once a prisoner has served a minimum sentence and proved that he is prepared to return to normal life, it is sound for society to help him make a readjustment. In other words, as soon as there is reasonable certainty that he will prove to be an asset and not a liability, it is a good practice to give him that chance.

35h

2. Economy is only a secondary consideration, but it is a fact that it costs less to properly supervise a parolee than to maintain a prisoner. Despite this fact, the soundest economy is the welfare of the individual and the public, economically and otherwise.

FEB 27 1942

Once an employer has shown that his only reason for offering a job to a parolee is to take advantage of "cheap" labor and to keep the former prisoner in a constant state of fear and apprehension, it is proper that he be "black-listed" and that no other prisoners be granted paroles to accept employment under such conditions.

Alabama has not forgotten the long fight to get convicts out of the mines. It does not want to return to that dark-age practice or to anything that smells of peonage.

Chicago Defender
Chicago. Illinois

GM EX-HEAD ACCUSED IN PEONAGE PLOT

NOV 14 1942

Grand Jury Indicts Firm After Investigation By F. B. I.

NOV 14 1942

By WALTER ATKINS

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Sensational charges that children in their early teens are being held captive at a huge Clewiston, Fla., sugar plantation, were leveled against the giant U.S. Sugar Corporation here this week.

The sweeping accusation followed closely on the heels of a drastic indictment of the big company for peonage in connection with earlier FBI investigation of slavery on the Florida cane fields.

Revelations of how the company enticed colored boys and girls aged from 14 to 17 years by attractive promises and then kept them in virtual "bondage" came from a score of aroused parents here.

As the angry parents revealed that their children are held captive, indictment of the firm by a federal grand jury in Tampa for violating anti-slavery laws added drama to the case which involves several big moguls of industry.

Largest stockholder in the U. S. Sugar Corporation is a former vice president of General Motors, Charles Stewart Mott, whose family owns 68 per cent of the stock and is represented by three directors. Only last year Senator Claude Pepper of Florida told the Senate Finance Committee that GM itself was one of the dominant stockholders.

NOV 14 1942

It is this sugar cane company which is accused of sending a labor agent to Birmingham a few weeks ago with busses to hire workers. Rounded up were a number of colored children who were under age and taken back to the Florida sugar cane plantation.

Not a single parent here gave his consent for his children to go.

It is reported that these children are being guarded day and night on this farm. Parents have made unsuccessful efforts to have their children returned Several forwarded fare to their children to return home but have not succeeded in getting them back.

The firm which virtually dominates the Florida sugar cane industry was indicted previous to this latest accusation for flaunting the Federal civil rights law. It was shown at the grand jury hearing that workers were recruited in other Southern states and told they would get free transportation. When they arrived at the plantation in Florida, they were told they were indebted to the company for transportation and would have to work it out in the field.

Those who fled were captured and returned.

Indicted were four officials of the company including M. E. Von Mach, personnel manager at Clewiston, and former GM employe, who testified at a rate hearing before the Agriculture Department in 1937:

"I would say that if we were to pay one cent more to these men it would be disastrous to the laborers. Now it sounds funny coming from me, being a Northerner and used to high wages and good living conditions; but if ye were to give the 'nigger' more money than he gets now he would leave months sooner because he has too much money to spend."

A recent study of the corporation by the Tolan Investigating Committee of Congress, besides revealing that several of its directors are stockholders and directors of General Motors, also found:

1. There was no set work day, making wage-hour law enforcement difficult.
2. Daily earnings for a nine-hour day averaged $2.26.
3. No time-and-a-half for over time is paid even when the work day is as long as 12 hours.
4. Housing provided by the company was "below an acceptable standard."

SLAVERY SURVIVAL IN ALABAMA

MAR 21 1942 Pittsburgh, Pa.

The Montgomery ~~(Ala.)~~ "Advertiser" reports that the Montgomery County Parole Board has blacklisted 100 white farm owners for treating paroled convicts as peons, and will not be able to get any more of these unfortunates to slave for them. Pittsburgh Courier 35h

This "bailing out" of convicts by white farmers is one of the major rackets in Alabama which has grown with the increasing scarcity of farm labor owing to the trek of free workers to the cities and defense jobs.

A Montgomery Negro writes, "I know of a case where a Negro man was convicted and fined about $35 for handling unlicensed liquor. A white farmer paid the fine and worked the Negro over a year without any additional pay before he was released. Of course all southern white state and county officials know about this damnable traffic in Negro labor. With Negroes it is the rule. White parolees are the exception and it was this exception that brought out a protest on the part of the daily press."

At a time like this we believe the federal government should step in and clean up this terrible situation.

35h-1942

ARKANSAS

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

G-Men Probe 'Peonage' Of Parolees

MAR 5 - 1942

FBI agents were ordered into Arkansas yesterday to investigate reports that convicts have been paroled from State prisons and are being held in "virtual peonage" by officials and legislators.

The Department of Justice said it was acting on allegations to the effect that members of the Arkansas Penitentiary Commission have administered the State parole system in such a way that parolees are placed in custody of members of the commission, members of the State Legislature, other State officials and to close friends and relatives of members of the penitentiary commission, and are compelled to work on their private plantations for only nominal wages.

MAR 5 1942

35h

Biddle Announces Inquiry

Attorney General Biddle announced that the inquiry was being made at the request of Wendell Berge, Assistant Attorney General in Charge of the Criminal Division, who had studied "persistent allegations by newspapers and other sources" that the Federal civil rights laws were being violated.

From Little Rock, the Associated Press quoted J A. Neaville, chairman of the State parole board, as saying the board welcomed an investigation. He said that although it saw nothing wrong with paroling convicts to board members and other State officials, it had discontinued the practice last December at Gov. Homer Adkins' request.

Two Still Employ Convicts

Neaville said convicts were still in the employ of two board members—J. H. Lawhorn and Dan Felton—but that the men were paid prevailing wages.

MAR 5 - 1942

Charges of the kind mentioned by Biddle might be prosecuted under two sections of the United States Code. Penalties under one, which specifically covers public officials, range up to one year in prison and $1000 fine. Under a general statute, the penalties reach a maximum of ten years imprisonment and $10,000 fine.

---

3 Named to County Reemployment Boards

Annapolis, Md., March 4 (AP).—Gov. O'Conor appointe dthree persons today to reemployment committees in Frederick and Garrett caunties.

Lewis Dertzbaugh was named to Local Board 1 and Osburn Price to Local Board 2, both in Frederick County, while Miss Mary Louise Helbig, of Oakland, was appointed to Local Board 1 in Garrett County.

The committees seek employment for selectees who may be mustered out of military service.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

CHARGES OF PEONAGE GET CLOSE ATTENTION

Federal Probe In Arkansas Will Require More Time

FEW MONTHS AT LEAST

Department Of Justice Seeks 'Complete' Facts Regarding Prison Labor—Negroes Ask Inquiry Into Vote

By ERNEST B. VACCARO
Associated Press Staff Writer

JUL 9 1942

WASHINGTON, July 8.—Aides of Atty. Gen. Biddle have disclosed that a Department of Justice inquiry into alleged Arkansas "peonage" may not be concluded for "a few months, at least."

They asserted that investigators were "working hard on this inquiry and that the investigation is statewide in scope."

Such an investigation is no simple matter, one official declared, "and must be a complete one."

35h

Grew Out Of Complaints

The investigation grew out of complaints that prisoners were being leased out for farm work and that legislators and officials were among those making use of prison labor.

Governor Adkins announced at the time the inquiry was started that the state administration would offer "fullest co-operation" and asserted that many of the practices complained of were discontinued when he took office. He said Department of Justice officials had spoken of the improvement.

In the meantime, another matter respecting voting rights of negroes in Arkansas, is under study by the Civil Liberties Division of the department.

An association of negro Democrats has asked Atty. Gen. Biddle's intervention in the association's efforts to obtain voting rights for negroes in the Democratic senatorial and congressional primaries this year.

Louisiana Case Cited

Under state party rules eligibility is confined to "All eligible and legally qualified white voters."

The association asserted this provision was contrary to a Supreme Court ruling in a Louisiana case.

JUL 9 1942

Officially, spokesmen for Mr. Biddle said the request for help was "under study."

However, they added, they could see no action the Attorney General could take, since the association could appeal to the courts for settlement of the issue.

The attorney general renders opinions only upon request of the President or heads of departments of the Government and has no authority to advise association or individuals on matters of law, they pointed out.

35h-1942
Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

ARKANSAS PEONAGE CHARGES INVESTIGATED BY FBI; PRISONERS PAROLED TO 'CERTAIN PERSONS'

MAR 14 1942

State Parole Board Welcomes Investigation; Says He Sees No Harm in Paroling Prisoners to Officials

MAR 14 1942

WASHINGTON.—(ANP)—An inquiry into reports that convicts are paroled from Arkansas State prisons into "virtual peonage" on plantations of officials and legislators has been launched by Federal Bureau of Investigation, it was announced here Thursday by Atty. Gen. Biddle. He said that the inquiry was being made at the request of Wendell Berg, assistant attorney in charge of the criminal division, who had studied "persistent allegations by newspapers and other sources," that federal civil rights laws were being violated.

MAR 14 1942

The term "peonage" was defined by one official as "compulsory servitude in discharge of a debt." One story has it that prisoners were offered parole with the provision that they work for a certain person.

Specifically the attorney general stated that "members of the Arkansas Penitentiary commission have administered the state parole system in such a way that parollees are placed in custody of commission, state legislature, state officials and close friends and relatives of commission members and are compelled to work on their private plantations for only nominal wages."

Chairman of the state parole board, J. A. Neaville of Little Rock, said the board welcomed an investigation, that although it saw nothing wrong with paroling convicts to board members and other state officials, it had discontinued the practice last December at the request of Gov. Homer Adkins.

MAR 14 1942

Neaville further stated that con-convicts were still in the employ of two board members—J. H. Lawhorn and Dan Felton—but that the men were paid prevailing wages.

In a telegram to Biddle, Gov. Adkins offered to turn over all state penal records to federal agents, saying, "It is my purpose and the purpose of the board and parole officers to conduct affairs of the state penal farm and paroles along the lines and in the same manner as the federal probation officers conduct their affairs. We welcome any investigation.'

MAR 14 1942

Charges of the kind mentioned by Biddle may be prosecuted under two sections of the United States code. Penalties of one, which specifically covers public officials, range up to one year in prison and $1,000 fine. The general statute gives as penalties a maximum of 10 years imprisonment and $10,000 fine.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

U. S. Orders Probe Into Ark. Peonage

MAR 14 1942

MAR 14 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Attorney General Biddle ordered G-Men into Arkansas on Thursday to investigate reports that convicts of both races have been paroled from state prisons and are being held in virtual peonage by officials and legislatures.

The probe was initiated at the request of Wendell Berge, assistant attorney general in charge of the criminal division, after numerous newspaper allegations that the

ARKANSAS

federal civil rights laws were being violated.

MAR 14 1942

Guilty persons may be prosecuted under two sections of the United States Code. Penalties under one, which specifically covers public officials, range up to one year in prison and $1,000 fine. Under a general statute, the penalties reach a maximum of ten years' inprisonment and $10,000 fine.

35h-1942

D.C.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Senate Hears About 'Slaves' Toiling As Sharecroppers

FEB 3 - 1942

FEB 3 - 1942

35h

Oklahoma Solon Indignant Over Plight of Poor Tenant Farmers

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—The unforunate condition of America's three million sharecroppers, who were called "slaves", was revealed in the senate last week when Sen. Thomas of Oklahoma entered into the record an article telling of the conditions under which these people live and work.

FEB 3 - 1942

"An almost incredible economic slavery is practiced at home while our soldiers are engaged in fighting for the liberty of mankind abroad", the article read. "A criminal slavery is winked at by Washington while the Red Cross and other organizations are duly agitated about the suffering abroad.

"While the Congress of Industrial Organizations bends effort to organize the well paid labor in steel, motors, aircraft, and other northern industries, no adequate effort has been made to abolish the slavery imposed upon the sharecroppers of the south—a slavery more cruel than the one practiced before the Civil war.

FEB 3 - 1942

Here Senator Thomas introduced into the Record several bits of relevant information, including telegrams, showing that the average earning of one family in his state for the past four years has been $102 per year.

"The clergy of all Christian churches owe it to their God and to their fellowmen to condemn it," the article continued.

"All America should rise up against the textile industry, the banking industry, and the other capitalistic gougers who are directly responsible for undoing what Lincoln thought he accomplished. It would be difficult to find worse form of slavery than exists south of the Mason and Dixon line in this year of grace, 1942.

FEB 3 - 1942

"Something must be done about this or the hypocrisy of all of our patriotic propaganda will become apparent not only to our enemies but to our fellow citizens."

35h-1942
Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

FLORIDA

Escape Florida Slave Farms; Report Death, Immorality

334

NOV 7 - 1942

By WITTIE ANNA BIGGINS

Special

By hook or crook several southern youths are finding ways of escaping from Ben Bow Village, Clewiston, Fla. plantation where girls and boys work nine hours a day under a gun-toting boss, and general slave conditions. Reports further indicate that one youth, Arthur Lee Shuford, was killed on one of the farms and another, Carol Bunkley, is seriously ill as a result of his experiences.

Among youths who escaped are John Ray, 16, of Atlanta, whose father died while he was slave-bound on the Florida farm; Lieutenant Paige and Sage Row of Brighton, Ala., who have been interviewed by Emory O. Jackson of Birmingham and by Atlanta *Daily World* reporters. Another bit of information comes from a distressed mother in Alabama whose son is on one of the Florida farms and who declares the letters she has been receiving from him are "not his handwriting."

NOV 7 - 1942

Promises Lure Youth

These boys tell of horrid living conditions experienced by Negro girls and boys who have been misled by information circulated thru white papers and mimeographed sheets distributed by the US Employment Service seeking 500 workers, 16 to 60, for a sugar corporation—girls at $1.65 a day and boys at $2.

However, when Atlanta boys and girls boarded the bus for the plantation they were offered wages of $8 and $9 per day, free transportation, free rent and free hospitalization. Later, the trip cost them $8 and the wage was $8 and $9 per week instead of per day, while pay-day came only once a month.

Interviews reveal that 500 school-age boys and girls on these farms must dine on rice or grits, sardines and bread three times a day, eat in the mess-hall for $4 a week, or buy from the commissary for $5 a week. Those unable to eat the $4 and $5 per week meals must make the best of it. One of the boys, Woolfolk, said he lived on sugarcane for almost a week, and that other boys were sick and hungry.

Boys tell of how they sleep on double-deck bunks without cover, and must sleep in their clothes to protect them against mosquitoes. The girls have bunks without upper decks, but boys are permitted to live with girls if desired. They are treated at the clinic each Friday for diseases. The "cute" girls are permitted to leave the camp easily. Boys, however, are not, except when called by the draft board.

NOV 7 - 1942

35h-1942

FLORIDA

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Giant Sugar Group Charged With Peonage

NOV 5 - 1942

Corporation Indicted For Forcibly Holding Negroes In Cane Fields

NOV 5 - 1942

TAMPA, FLA., Nov. 4.—(U.P.)—The United States Sugar Corporation and four of its employes were indicted by a Federal Grand Jury here today on charges of conspiring to violate Federal anti-peonage statutes and of holding negro sugar cane workers in involuntary servitude.

The jury also returned an indictment against Glades County Sheriff Jeff Wiggins, charging him with working county prisoners on his own farm without pay in violation of Federal civil rights and anti-peonage statutes.

Defendants in the sugar corporation indictments were M. E. von Mach, personnel manager of the company's Clewiston office and three camp superintendents, Evan Ward McLeod, Oliver H. Sheppard and a Mr. Neal.

They were charged with "injuring, oppressing, threatening and intimidating" negro field workers to prevent free exercise of rights under the 13th constitutional amendment.

NOV 5 - 1942

(At Clewiston, Jay W. Morgan, vice-president of the sugar corporation, branded the charges as "astounding and preposterous."

(He said he had not yet received a copy of the indictments but that an immediate and full investigation would be conducted. "Our company has always maintained the highest living and working conditions for its workers — the fact that they return year after year is proof of their satisfaction of the company's treatment of them," he declared.)

The indictments grew out of an investigation directed by Asst. Atty. Gen. Wendell Berge of complaints that the company misrepresented certain conditions to negro workers who were recruited in Southern States for employment on the company's 12 plantations near Clewiston.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Drive On For Civil Rights

NOV 14 1942

NOV 14 1942

Sugar Company And Sheriff Are Indicted

TAMPA, Fla.—The United States Department of Justice has turned "peonage busters." And the shooting last week in Florida was good.

Two top "busters" are Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge and United States Attorney Herbert S. Phillips.

NOV 14 1942

Berge, in charge of the criminal division, investigated two separate cases, and Phillips had a perfect score of indictments before a federal grand jury.

A sugar company and a county sheriff are the two offenders, who are charged with attempting to set up a type of serfdom on a corporation plantation and a private farm.

INTIMIDATED WORKERS

The United States Sugar Corporation, and four employees were indicted on two counts. First count charged that the defendants "injured, oppressed, threatened and intimidated" Negro field workers in the free exercises of their rights under the thirteenth amendment of the Constitution by holding them in involuntary servitude.

Count two charges the defendants with a conspiracy to violate the Federal Anti-Peonage statute.

Conviction on number one carries imprisonment for ten years and a $5,000 fine. The anti-peonage penalty is imprisonment for two years and a $10,000 fine.

Berge investigated complaints that the sugar company was recruiting workers in Southern that the sugar company was recruiting workers in Southern states for employment on its sugar cane plantations near Clewiston, Florida, offering free transportation.

NOV 14 1942

LATER WERE INDEBTED

The complaints charged that upon arrival, however, workers were notified they were indebted to the company for the cost of transportation and that the debt had to be worked out before they could leave. Workers who attempted to escape the various camps were apprehended and returned to the plantation.

The same federal grand jury at Tampa indicted Jeff Wiggins, sheriff of Glades county, for violating federal civil rights and anti-slavery statutes.

Report of Berge charged the sheriff removed prisoners to work on his farm in violation of civil rights, and that he worked them in violation of the anti-slavery statutes.

The civil rights violation penalty is imprisonment for a year and a $1,000 fine or both. Violation of the anti-slavery statute carries a fine of $5,000 or five years imprisonment or both.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Fed'l Grand Jury Indictments Are Voted Against 4

NOV 6 - 1942

TAMPA, Fla.—(SNS)—District Attorney Herbert S. Phillips had announced Thursday that federal grand jury indictments had been returned against the U. S. Sugar Corporation, its personnel manager and three of its camp superintendents, charging them with holding Negro sugar cane workers in conditions of peonage.

Phillips said an indictment also was returned against Sheriff Jeff Wiggins of Glades county, charging him with working county prisoners on his own farm without pay, in violation of the federal civil rights ar [illegible]onage statutes.

NOV 6 - 1942

One count of the indictment against the Sugar Corporation charged that the defendants "injured, oppressed, threatened and intimidated" Negro field workers to prevent the free exercise of their rights under the 13th amendment to the constitution and held them in involuntary servitude.

The second count charged they conspired to violate federal anti-peonage statutes.

Phillips said the first count carried, upon conviction, a maximum of 10 years imprisonment and $5,000 fine and the second count two years imprisonment and $10,000 fine.—

RECRUITED WORKERS

The district attorney said the indictments grew out of an investigation by Assistant Attorney General Wendell Bergol following complaints received by the justice department that the sugar corporation recruited Negro workers in Southern states for employment on its sugar plantations near Clewiston, offering free transportation.

Upon arrival, the district attorney related, the Negroes said they were notified that they were indebted to the company for the cost of transportation and that the debt had to be worked out before they could leave. Workers who attempted to escape were apprehended and returned to the plantation, he declared.

NOV 6 - 1942

Sheriff Wiggins was charged in one count of removing inmates from the Glades county jail and forcing them to work on his own farm without pay, and in the second with violation of the anti-slavery law. Phillips said the first count carried, upon conviction, a maximum penalty of a year in jail or $1,000 fine, or both, and the second count a maximum of five years in jail or $5,000 fine, or both.

In Clewiston, Vice-President Jay W. Moran denied emphatically that peonage or forced labor conditions ever existed on any of the 12 plantations of the United States Sugar Corporation. He termed "astounding and preposterous" the news that the corporation and four of its officials had been indicted by a Federal grand jury.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, PA.

RACE LABORERS HELD IN PEONAGE

NOV 14 1942

NOV 14 1942

By **LEROY N. WASHINGTON**
(Staff Correspondent)

TAMPA, Fla., Nov. 12—The Federal Grand Jury on last Wednesday indicted the United States Sugar corporation, its personnel manager, M. E. Von Mach, and three camp superintendents, on charges of peonage in employment of field hands and laborers on sugar plantations in the vicinity of Clewiston, Fla., near here. The personnel manager and the superintendent are white and the peons are colored.

Northern Capital Runs Sugar Corp.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 12—In an exclusive story this week the newspaper PM accuses northern capital of controlling the United States Sugar Corporation, indicted last week on charges of violating the Federal anti-slavery law. The largest stockholder is Charles Stewart Mott, former vice president of General Motors, whose family is said to control 68 per cent of the stock and is represented by three directors.

NOV 14 1942

The indictment set forth two counts and charged violation of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which guarantees freedom from slavery and involuntary servitude.

It listed 20 overt acts, including promises of wages and other inducements, beatings, threats, coercion and intimidation against Negroes brought to the sugar plantation from Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Memphis, Tenn., and other places on Nov. 1, 1941, "and for a long time prior thereto and upon subsequent days thereafter," up to and including the time the indictment was returned.

NOV 14 1942

LIST VICTIMS

In addition to Von Mach, the others indicted here Wednesday and arraigned Thursday morning in the United States Federal Court, Southern District of Florida, were Evan W. McLeod, Oliver H. Sheppard and a third named Neal. They are superintendents at Bare Beach, South Shore and Miami Locks, respectively.

District Attorney Herbert S. Phillips announced the findings of the Federal Grand Judy from his offices in the Federal Building here, and also conferred with The Courier correspondent in this area relative to the indictments in this case and others.

Listed as the field hands and laborers, all race members, whom the indictment said were denied their constitutional rights and privileges were: William Wade, James Dotson, James Price Jr., Vernon Lawhorn, Lee E. Gause, William Smith Jr., John L. Alsobrook, Carol Jones, Frank Miller, "and other persons," all of Memphis, Tenn. Also listed were John Gray, Cornelius Long, "and other persons" of Tuscaloosa, Ala., who were brought to camps the sugar company operated, and forced to work against their wills "by force, threats and by divers other means of coercion and intimidation" which included beating, striking and by imposing other forms of bodily punishment.

BOND SET AT $1,000

District Attorney Phillips said conviction on the first count carried a maximum penalty of 10 years' imprisonment and $5,000 fine, or both, and the second count two years imprisonment and $10,000 fine, or both.

Bond for each defendant was announced at $1,000 which was placed by each here last Friday morning. It was announced that the case would be called for trial on the second Monday in February of 1943, during the February term of court of the United States Federal Court of the Southern District of Florida.

NOV 14 1942

PLANT OFFICIALS SHOCKED BY NEWS

From Clewiston the vice president of the Sugar Corporation denied emphatically that peonage or forced labor conditions ever existed on any of the 12 plantations operated by the U. S. Sugar Corporation.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

VICTIM HELD IN SERVITUDE ON DEBT RUSE

Says Turpentine Operator Forced Him To Work At Point Of Gun

Nov. 21, 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Atty. Gen. Francis Biddle announced this week that a federal grand jury sitting in the Northern District of Florida, at Pensacola Wednesday, returned an indictment charging Charles A. Gaskin, of Wewahitchka, Fla., with violation of the federal anti-peonage statute.

The indictment charges Gaskin with "unlawfully, wilfully and feloniously" arresting James Johnson, for the purpose of holding him in involuntary servitude to work off an alleged debt.

Maximum penalties under this statute are five years imprisonment, or a $5,000 fine, or both.

The indictment followed an investigation by the FBI into a report that on Aug. 5, 1940, Gaskin forced Johnson to accompany him from Panama City (Florida) to) Wewahitchka to work out a debt. According to a statement by Johnson, he was beaten up on the public highway by Gaskin and forced, at gunpoint, to enter the latter's automobile.

Johnson stated that he had left Gaskin's turpentine camp near Wewahitchka in 1937 "free of debt" but that Gaskin in July, 1940 claimed "a look at the ledger" disclosed a $22 debt. Johnson escaped from the automobile before he reached Gaskin's camp.

The grand jury investigation, requested by assistant attorney general Wendell Berge, in charge of the criminal division, was directed by United States Attorney George E. Hoffman and Frank Coleman, special assistant to the attorney general.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Another Floridian Held For Peonage

Nov. 15, 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C. —(SNS)— Attorney General Francis Biddle has announced, that a Federal Grand Jury, sitting in the Northern District of Florida, at Pensacola, Wednesday, returned an indictment charging Charles A. Gaskin of Wewahichka, Florida, with violation of the Federal Anti-Peonage Statute.

The indictment charges Gaskin with "unlawfully, wilfully and felnoiously" arresting a Negro, Jabes Johnson, for the purpose or holding him in involuntary servitude to work off an alleged debt.

Maximum penalties under this statute (Section 444, Title 18, U. S. Code), are five years imprisonment, or a $5,000 fine, or both.

The indictment followed an investigation by the FBI into a report that on August 5, 1940, Gaskin forced Johnson to accompany him from Panama City (Florida) to Wewahitchka to work out a debt According to a statement by Johnson, he was beaten up on the public highway by Gaskin and forced, at gunpoint, to enter the latter's automobile. Johnson stated that he had left Gaskin's turpentine camp near Wewahitchka in 1937 "free of debt," but that Gaskin, in July 1940, claimed "a look into the ledger" disclosed a $22.00 debt. Johnson escaped from the automobile before he reached Gaskin's camp.

The Grand Jury investigation, requested by Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge, in charge of the Criminal Division, was directed by United States Attorney George E. Hoffman and Frank Coleman, Special Assistant to the Attorney General.

35h-1942

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Peonage Story Told By Victims

MAR 8 - 1942

35h

Tell of Mistreatment On Florida Sugar Plantation

MAR 8 - 1942

By CHAS. W. GREENLEA

Ragged, unkempt and exhausted, three young farm laborers reached Atlanta Friday and told alarming stories of slavery, armed guards and whippings on a Clewiston, Florida, sugar cane plantation.

The three young men charged they were held in virtual peonage by their employers.

MAR 8 - 1942

James Bates, 21, Willie Bell, 25, and James Butler, 22, declared they escaped under cover of darkness from the plantation known as "South Shore Village."

RECRUITED IN ARKANSAS

The men said they were recruited along with 300 other Negroes from Arkansas and Missouri. After arriving at the plantation, they declared they found themselves in a condition of peonage.

According to their story, local Negroes steer clear of the sugar plantation because they know the conditions there.

After reaching Atlanta, the trio said workers on the plantation are forced to cut cane from four a. m. to dusk and are intimidated by armed white guards. They said workers never draw wages, but end up "owing the boss" for "expenses."

HITCH-HIKED TO ATLANTA

The men said they hitch-hiked to Atlanta. On arriving, their case was taken to the Department of Labor Inspectors and the F. B. I. by members of the Atlanta Travelers Aid Society. First mention of the alleged conditions on the Florida plantation was made by the cane-cutters when they visited the Travelers Aid Society agency at the Terminal Station here and sought aid in returning to their homes in Blythville, Arkansas and Portersville, Missouri.

MAR 8 - 1942

The three men had in their possession a circular, similar to the circulars that are distributed among Negro farm hands throughout Arkansas and Missouri. The circular promised "good, steady jobs for 300 Negro men, free transportation to Florida and $3 a day compensation with meals and lodging furnished."

The circular carried pictures of carnivals, barbecues and weekly entertainments for the workers and gave the impression that a cane-cutter's life was one of comfort and luxury.

MAR 8 - 1942

PROMISED "GOOD WORK"

Bates, who is single, said he was approached by a white man in a Blytheville, Arkansas street and promised "good work" in Florida. He asserted that he and eight others were carried by truck to Bennett, Arkansas, registered and finger-printed at the state employment office.

Butler and Bell, both illiterate, are married and had been working as share-croppers on a Portersville, Missouri farm.

The men said three bus loads of "workers" were transported to Clewiston, Florida. They said they slept in barracks on the plantation and ate meals in a "messhall." The meals, they said, are served by women, who are mistreated the same as the men workers. No provision is made for separation of men and women in housing facilities, the three cane-cutters declared.

CHARGED FOR EVERYTHING

They said the were charged $16 for transportation to Florida, $4 a week for meals, $1.50 for a light blanket and even had to pay $1 for a cane-cutting knife. All of the charges were deducted from their "earnings."

The men told Atlantans they fled after getting tired of being cursed and beaten. They said so many Negroes are fleeing the camp that guards are now "beating up" all who are caught attempting to flee.

Bell and Butler said they had received notices to report for examinations before their draft boards on March 7. They asked Travelers Aid officials to explain to the board the cause of their absence.

FLORIDA

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

INDICTMENT CHARGES PEONAGE IN FLORIDA

~~NOV 5 - 1942~~

Sugar Corporation and 4 Employes Accused in Negro Cases

~~NOV 5 - 1942~~

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4—Peonage has been charged against the United States Sugar Corporation and four of its employes, in an indictment handed down by a grand jury today at Tampa, Attorney General Biddle stated.

35h

The accusations were that the Federal civil rights and anti-slavery statutes had been violated through a conspiracy to hold Negro sugar cane workers in what amounted to peonage.

One of the counts said that the defendants "injured, oppressed, threatened and intimidated" Negro field workers by holding them in involuntary servitude; another said there was a conspiracy to violate the anti-peonage law.

Individuals named in the indictment included M. E. Von Hach, personnel manager at Clewiston, Florida; Oliver H. Sheppard, superintendent South Shore Plantation; Evan Ward McLeod, superintendent at Bare Beach Plantation, and a Mr. Nead, superintendent of Miami Lochs Plantation.

The Tampa grand jury also indicted Jeff Higgins, Lauderdale County Sheriff, for allegedly working county prisoners on his own farm in violation of the same statutes.

NOV 5 - 1942

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Tells Of Hard Life On Sugar Plantation

OCT 23 1942

An orphan, John Ray, 16, of 941 Palmetto Avenue, is back in Atlanta after several weeks of 'hard living" on a sugar cane plantation in Florida.

He says his father died here while he was living under slave-like conditions with other misled girls and boys in Ben Bow Village, Clewiston, Florida.

Now residing with his stepmother, Mrs. Lillia Ray, John has returned to Booker T. Washington high school where he is an eighth grade student.

OCT 23 1942

"I would join the Navy, but I'm not old enough," he said.

Beginning his story, Ray said he answered an advertisement in a white paper giving information about the United States Sugar Corporation. Upon entering a bus to make the trip to Florida, Ray said he was told that he would be given free transportation to Florida, ~~free rent~~ and free hospitalization.

OCT 23 1942

He said he got the free rent and hospitalization, but had to pay $8 for the trip to Florida.

Ray pointed out that whereas he was promised from $5 to $6 a day as a sugar cane worker, he received only $2 a day. Meals cost him $4 a week, he revealed.

The youth said he and other boys and girls worked nine hours each day cutting cane, digging ditches and planting grass, and added that they worked "longer than nine hours some days."

Ray state that he and several other boys "slipped off" in order to return to their homes this month. Several youths who slipped off were caught and returned to the plantation, he said.

Although he was not beaten by overseers on any occasions, Ray said he saw several other youthful workers beaten by "white bosses."

OCT 23 1942

(Writing in the Birmingham World, Birmingham, Alabama, this week, Editor Emory O. Jackson quoted several youths, who escaped from the plantation, as saying one boy was killed on the farm. The Alabama boys also were quoted as saying unmarried boys and girls lived together, and that the boys slept on double bunks which had no cover.)

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

White Texans Indicted On Two Peonage Counts

OCT 31 1942

Attorney General Francis Biddle announced last week that a Federal grand jury sitting in the Eastern District of Texas, at Tyler, on October 6, 1942, returned an indictment in two counts charging Wylie Page, Long View, Texas, and C. M. Weaver, town marshal, Hawkins, Texas, with violation of the Federal Anti-Peonage statute.

Page and Weaver are charged with "unlawfully, wilfully, and feloniously" arresting, causing to be arrested, and holding in a condition of peonage a Negro, Robert Carraway, pending payment of a $63 debt.

Face $5,000 Fines, Prison

Penalties under this statute (Title 18, Section 444, United States Code) are imprisonment for not more than five years, or a fine of not more than $5,000, or both, on each count.

OCT 31 1942

The investigation was originally commenced upon information furnished by a white citizen of Dallas, Texts. According to the statement of the alleged victim, he had worked on Page's farm

---

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

PEONAGE CHARGED TO SUGAR GROWER

~~NOV 5 - 1942~~

Florida District Attorney Says Federal Grand Jury Acts to Free Negro Hands

~~NOV 5 - 1942~~

TAMPA, Fla., Nov. 4 (AP)—District Attorney Herbert S. Phillips announced today that Federal grand jury indictments had been returned against the United States Sugar Corporation, its personnel manager and three of its camp superintendents charging them with holding Negro sugar cane workers in conditions of peonage.

An indictment also was returned against Sheriff Jeff Wiggins of Glades County charging him with working county prisoners on his own farm without pay, in violation of the Federal civil rights and anti-peonage statutes, Mr. Phillips said.

The indictment in the sugar cane workers case named as defendants the sugar corporation, M. E. Von Mach, personnel manager at the company's Clewiston (Fla.) office; Evan Ward McLeod, superintendent of the Bear Beach Camp; Oliver Shephard, superintendent of the South Shore Camp, and a man named Neal, whose first name Mr. Phillips did not know, superintendent of the Miam Locks camp.

One count of the indictment charged that the defendants "injured, oppressed, threatened and intimidated" Negro field workers to prevent the free exercise of their rights under the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution and held them in involuntary servitude.

NOV 5 - 1942

The second count charged that they conspired to violate Federal anti-peonage statutes.

Mr. Phillips said the first count carried a maximum penalty of ten years' imprisonment and a $5,000 fine and the second count two years' imprisonment and a $10,000 fine.

NOV 5 - 1942

The District Attorney said the indictments grew out of an investigation directed by Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge following complaints received by the Justice Department that the Sugar Corporation recruited Negro workers in southern States for employment on its plantations near Clewiston, offering free transportation.

Upon arrival, Mr. Phillips related, the Negroes said they were notified that they were indebted to the company for the cost of transportation and that he debt had to be worked ou before they could leave. Workers who attempted to escape were caught and returned to the plantation, he declared.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

PEONAGE LAID TO SUGAR COMPANY

~~NOV 5 - 1942~~

Big Corporation Faces Charges In Florida Everglades Area

~~NOV 5 - 1942~~

TAMPA, Fla., Nov. 4—(AP)—The vast U. S. Sugar Corporation, operator of plantations and refineries in the Florida Everglades, was accused Wednesday of holding Negro cane workers in peonage.

U. S. District Atty. Herbert S. Phillips announced Federal Grand Jury indictments against the corporation, its personnel manager and three of its plantation superintendents.

Vice President Jay W. Moran at Clewiston expressed amazement at the indictments and declared the corporation "always has maintained the highest working and living conditions" for its laborers.

Sheriff Indicted

The district attorney also announced the indictment of Sheriff Jeff Wiggins, of Glades County, charged with working county prisoners on his own farm without pay, in violation of federal civil rights and anti-peonage statutes.

In the sugar case, indictments were returned against the corporation, M. E. von Mach, personnel manager of the company's plant at Clewiston; Evan Ward McLeod, superintendent at the Bear Beach Camp; Oliver Shephard, superintendent at the South Shore Camp, and a superintendent named Neal at the Miami Locks Camp.

Negroes Statements Listed

Phillips reported that Negro workers, recruited in Southern states and transported free to the sugar plantations, claimed they were notified on arrival that they were in debt to the company for the cost of their transportation. If they attempted to escape before discharging the debt, Phillips said they were apprehended and returned to the plantation.

The indictments stemmed from an investigation made by Assistant Atty. Gen. Wendell Berge into complaints received by the Justice Department, the district attorney added.

The defendants, it was charged in one count, "injured, oppressed, threatened and intimidated" the Negro field workers to prevent free exercise of their rights under the 13th amendment to the constitution. A second count charged conspiracy to violate anti-peonage statutes.

NOV 5 - 1942

Testing Quoted

In his statement at Clewiston, Moran quoted Otis E. Mulliken, chief of the labor section of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Sugar Agency as testifying before a Senate commitee in 1940 that the sugar corporation's workers had a standard of living "higher than that of most of the agricultural workers in the continental area."

"On the whole," Moran said Mulliken continued, "sugar cane workers in Florida constitute a relatively privileged class of agricultural workers."

Moran asserted that the same laborers returned to the company year after year and said "this is proof that our workers are satisfied with our treatment of them."

Source:
P. M. Daily
New York, N. Y.
Nov. 5, 1942

SLAVERY LAID TO SUGAR FIRM Nov. 5, 1942

Federal Indictment Says Negro Employes in Florida Were Held in Peonage

WASHINGTON, Nov. 5.--The United States Sugar Corp. and four of its employes have been indicted on charges of violation of the Federal laws against slavery.

Attorney General Francis Biddle announced the indictments, returned at Tampa, Fla., yesterday. He said the corporation and its employes were accused of holding Negro workers in a condition of peonage. Nov. 5, 1942

Named as individual defendants were M.E. von Mach, personnel manager, Clewiston, Fla.; Evan Ward McLeod, Super intendent, Bare Beach plantation; Olive H. Sheppard, superintendent, South Shore plantation; and a Mr. Neao, superintendent, Miami Lochs plantation.

The indictment followed investigation by the FBI of complaints that the sugar company was recruiting workers in Southern states and then imposing peonage upon them.

The method, authorities said, was to offer free transportation to the plantations and then notify the workers they were indebted before they could leave.

Workmen who fled were captured and returned. Nov. 5, 1942

One count charges the defendants "injured, oppressed, threatened and intimidated" Negro workers.

The same grand jury indicted Sheriff Jeff Wiggins of Lauderdale County, Fla., for working county prisoners on his farm in violation of the same statutes.

35h-1942

Montgomery, Ala Jor
January 14, 1942

Forced Work On Farms

In the early years of the present century quite a number of landlords in the South were being prosecuted for peonage. Due to conditions which had grown up following the freeing of the slaves some of the large plantations had developed employment systems which retained some of the trappings of slavery; for through the extension of credit and supplies, the worker was bound to the soil almost as completely as though he were still a slave. Following those prosecutions, still other plans were undertaken to keep Negro plantation workers on the job and to make them work out their debts. Georgia in 1903 passed a law providing a year on the chain gang for any person who contracted to perform work for another, received pay in advance, and then failed to do the work or return the money.

The United States Supreme court has just declared that law unconstitutional in a case brought up by a Negro who owed $19.50. Georgia's Attorney General insisted that the law was designed to prevent fraud, but the high court upheld the argument that it operates to create and maintain a condition or system of peonage, and hence was invalid.

For centuries the Anglo-Saxon race has been trying to devise some legal means of making a man pay his debts and live up to his contracts. Imprisonment for debt was abandoned long ago, and some of the plans which have been tried in the South to make plantation hands work have skirted very close to imprisonment for debt.

It is a serious problem on Southern plantations, and more serious now perhaps than ever before because there seems to be less inclination to work among large groups than ever before. Big land owners used to lease convicts from the state and use them to work their plantations, but that passed out. Then came the practice of paying a prisoner's fine and getting him out of jail and holding him long enough to work out the debt. But there is not much of that now. Then came the laws making it a fraud to accept money and to fail to work for it. The court has ruled that out. The Southern farmer has just about reached the point where he would like for some of the reformers to tell him how to conduct a farm when no one wants to work and there is no way to make able-bodied men work.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Peonage Fighters

THURGOOD Marshall, special counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said the Department of Justice is very much concerned with the eradication of peonage in the South. He said that it had shown more interest in this evil recently than in any other of the ills from which the colored people of the South suffer.

We think it is commendable that the federal government is interested in removing a system which is somewhat worse than slavery. It is a system which compels thousands, and perhaps millions, of colored people to work on farms without compensation. It is a system which sabotages the Thirteenth amendment to the Constitution which said involuntary servitude except for the punishment of crime is abolished. It is a system which punches holes in our democratic process and makes null and void the all-men-are-created-equal provision of the Declaration of Independence.

One cannot think of the great fight against peonage without thinking about the one who went out single-handed and revealed to the world the cancerous evils of a system which had been permitted to grow and fester since Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves. He is William Henry Huff who challenged the peonage system and all those who had grown fat through it. He fought peonage when such a campaign was neither profitable nor popular. He made the people of Illinois conscious of the evil when he had the peonage master of Georgia indicted by a Federal grand jury sitting in Chicago. He made the people of the nation aware of the danger of such a system by propagandizing the cause of democracy and revealing the inimical evil that attached in leech-like manner to suck the life blood from the democratic process.

Thus, as the Department of Justice makes its fight against peonage and all that it stands for, we must remember the colored fighter who is as closely identified with the fight as is the Prince of Denmark to Shakespeare's "Hamlet"—William Henry Huff.

GENERAL

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Georgia Leads List With Nine

WASHINGTON—(SNS)—The Department of Justice is now investigating and prosecuting 34 cases involving violation of the Federal anti-peonage statute in 7 Southern States, the Office of War Information announced this week.

These cases which are being handled through the Civil Rights Section of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice, are in the process of Federal Grand Jury investigations ,indictments, trials and Federal Bureau of Investigation probes.

Twenty of the cases are being investigated in the field by the FBI. An additional twelve have been placed before Federal Grand Juries following completion of FBI probes, and two—one in Texas and another in Georgia—are ready for trial.

The cases are being conducted in the following Stats: Georgia, 9 Texas, 8; Missisippi [illegible] Alabama, 4; Florida, 3; Missouri, 2; and one each in Tennessee and Arkansas.

The most recent peonage indictment was returned in the Eastern District of Texas on June 23, 1942, when a Federal Grand Jury, sitting in Tyler, indicted Wallace Adams of Weldon, Texas, on four counts.

Adams was charged with "unlawfully, wilfully and feloniously" arresting, causing to be arrested and returning to and holding in a condition of peonage Miss Lonnie McQueen, pending payment of a $30 debt.

According to a complaint filed by Miss McQueen, she was forced to work 5 1-2 months on Adams' farm in 1941 to pay off a $30 note made to a local bank and purchased by Adams. Although she was supposed to receive $3.00 per week and 50 cents a day for working in the garden, these sums to be applied to amortizing the note the $30 debt had not been "worked off" at the end of the five months, she charged.

Penalties for violation of the Federa lanti-peonage statute are imprisonment for not more than five years, or a fine of not more than $5,000, or both.

One Of 8 Cases In Texas Is Ready For Trial; 8 In Georgia

"The Informer"
Houston, Tex.

AUG 29 1942

WASHINGTON.—The Department of Justice is now investigating and prosecuting 34 cases involving violation of the federal anti-peonage statute in 7 southern states, the Office of War Information announced this week.

These cases, which are being handled through the Civil Rights Section of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice, are in the process of Federal Grand Jury investigations, indictments, trials and Federal Bureau of Investigation probes.

Twenty of the cases are being investigated in the field by the FBI. An additional twelve have been placed before federal grand juries following completion of FBI probes, and two—one in Texas and another in Georgia—are ready for trial.

THE SCORE

The cases are being conducted in the following states: Georgia, 9; Texas, 8; Mississippi, 6; Alabama, 4; Florida, 3; Missouri, 2; and one each in Tennessee and Arkansas.

354

The most recent peonage indictment was returned in the Eastern district of Texas on June 23, 1942, when a federal grand jury, sitting in Tyler, indicted Wallace Adams of Weldon, Texas, on four counts.

Adams was charged with "unlawfully, wilfully and feloniously" arresting, causing to be arrested, and returning to and holding in a condition of peonage Lonnie McQueen, a Negro woman, pending payment of a $30.00 debt.

AUG 29 1942

According to a complaint filed by Miss McQueen, she was forced to work 5½ months on Adams' farm in 1941 to pay off a $30 note made to a local bank and purchased by Adams.

Although she was supposed to receive $3.00 per week and 50 cents a day for working in the garden, these sums to be applied to amortizing the note, the $30 00 debt had not been "worked off" at the end of the five months, she charged.

AUG 29 1942

STIFF PENALTY

Penalties for violation of the federal anti-peonage statute are imprisonment for not more than five years, or a fine of not more than $5.000. or both.

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

THE INVASION OF THE NORTH by the South continues. Just as the Russians have let the German hordes come so far to the thresholds of Moscow and Stalingrad we, too, must do likewise in the North. Negroes and liberal thinking whites must stop the panzer advance of southern crackerocracy.

354

The slave camp we exposed last week in upper New York state should be investigated immediately by the Governor. Over a hundred Negroes are forced to live in no better conditions than they would in a peonage camp in Georgia or a turpentine camp in Florida.

The escape of David Williams, Negro sharecropper, from South Carolina to New Jersey and his subsequent arrest and imprisonment last week is another point in proof. For eleven years William's wife and three children worked six days a week for Cleo Young. They were always in debt, prohibited from leaving the plantation, and kept in slavery.

Fugitive from justice, Jack Brown of Tennessee walked into my study last week looking for help. He was scarred and battered by Alabama prison guards.

SEP 12 1942

If this condition continues, the hour will arrive for a new underground movement. Just as the abolitionists as outlined in Phillip Van Doren Stern's book, *The Drums of the Morning* brought Negro slaves from the South to the free North just so it is possible that we must do likewise once again here in the North.

~~AUG~~ SEP 12 1942

These are days in which black life is held cheap. These are days when the return to slavery is not waiting for that never-to-be day of a hitler victory. These are days when the white morons of cracker land are pushing the Negro rapidly back into slavery now. *WE MUST TAKE A STAND!*

334

When the pioneers shoved the Indians back into the wilderness—there came a day when the red man could go no farther. There in the heart of Alabama at the foot hills of the Alleghany the cry went up "TALLEDEGA!" That word translated from the Indian to English means, "HERE WE MAKE OUR LAST STAND." So today the cry must go up among liberal whites in both the North and South for all the blacks in America, "TALLEDEGA!"

Today we can retreat no further. Our backs are against the wall. Civil liberties have been discarded and injustice rules this land. The white Georgia Baptist state convention declares that there are more Negroes held in debt slavery than there were chattel slavery before the Civil War. What a sorry condition—a tragic commentary, but the commentary is upon us Negroes in the North. Let us refuse to let David Williams go back. Let us refuse to let Jack Brown return to the chain gang. Let us clear out the slave camp in New York State.

SEP 12 1942

"TALLADEGA!"

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

The Drift Of The Current

JAN 24 1942

By J. THOMAS NEWSOME

JAN 24 1942

PEONAGE is a condition imposed upon a common laborer as a punishment for his failure to pay a debt. It is a plain form of slavery. By it a debtor may hold one in service indefinitely. While it is contrary to our fundamental law, yet the nefarious practice has been sustained by the Georgia Courts of Appeal five times. This column quotes from the New York Times the following: " . . . . The theory of the Georgia act was, indeed, that punishment was invoked, not for the debt itself, but for fraud, in that the accused person accepted money for services he did not intend to perform. Such a theory could hardly be sustained in any given case. A court or jury could not very well determine by objective evidence whether or not Ira Taylor or any one else meant to keep his contract. In most states the issue would have been civil, not criminal. In Georgia the law was apparently used to coerce debtors, and, as the Federal Department of Justice maintained, to force them into 'involuntary service.' " JAN 24 1942

MR. NEWSOME

SHOWS IT CAN HAPPEN IN A DEMOCRACY

That the legislature of one of the important states, certainly from the viewpoint of population, could have enacted any such "law" is a sad commentary upon what may happen in a democracy. The naked truth of the matter is that public opinion dominant among the white people of the State of Georgia has not accepted the theory of equality of all men before the law.

This is not to be wondered at in a state that tolerates Talmadge and the chain-gang. The policy of the state of Georgia as evidenced in the peonage act is one of utter defiance of the constitutional guarantees and particularly the one forbidding involuntary servitude except for crime.

JAN 24 1942

What this column wishes to emphasize is that the Supreme Court of the United States, by unanimous opinion, has held the Georgia act, in respect to this form of slavery, unconstitutional. The immediate effect of this opinion will be to outlaw the Georgia outrage and to put it beyond the sanction of law. But the resourcefulness of that state in overcoming rulings of the Supreme Court will doubtless suggest a way, within the law, to defeat the plain and unequivocal mandate of the highest tribunal.

Negro men, ignorant and gullible, will, in the opinion of this column, for a long time, be subject to the subtle and ingenious methods used by some of the unscrupulous debtor classes of the state of Georgia, to get around the law.

STRENGTHEN THE ARM OF OUR ADVOCATES

The conclusion of this column is that the agencies combating such attempts as Georgia and some other states are continually making to deprive Negroes of their constiutional rights, should be strengthened.

Such an organization is the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The Negro's fight for freedoms is a fight for the poor of both races in all parts of this so-called democracy. For, as the New York Times concludes:

JAN 24 1942

> **"The defendant in the Georgia case was a Negro. The same procedure, or the same intimidation, might, however, have been employed against friendless and penniless white men. The act was class legislation. It smelled of slavery. The court's decision should help strike down not only this form of peonage but other forms wherever found,"**

Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Supreme Court Hints State Law Near Peonage

JAN 13 1942

WASHINGTON, [AP] — The supreme court struck down a Georgia statute as unconstitutional Monday on the ground that under it workers could be held in peonage.

The law, passed in 1903, required employes to work out their debts to employers. It provided a year on the chain gang for any person who contracted to perform work for another, received pay in advance, and then failed to do the work or return the money.

The Georgia attorney general defended the law as a measure to punish fraud but counsel for Ira Taylor, a Negro convicted in a case involving $19.50, contended that it "operates to create and maintain a condition or system of peonage, in which large numbers of unfortunates are still being held."

JAN 13 1942

The court, in an opinion written by Justice Byrnes, declared that "the necessary consequence" of the act "is that one who has received an advance on a contract for services which he is unable to repay is bound by the threat of penal sanction to remain at his employment until the debt has been discharged. Such coerced labor is peonage." It held that the law violated the 13th amendment, which outlawed slavery and involuntary servitude.

In another case the court ruled, in an opinion by Justice Jackson, that fees for golfing and other privileges paid by members to country clubs, in addition to the regular membership fees, constitute "dues or membership fees" subject to federal tax. The ruling applied to fees paid for privileges covering a period of time and not to daily greens fees. The decision was given in cases involving the Winchester [Mass.] Country club, and the Merion [Pa.] Cricket club.

In Atlanta, U. S. District Attorney Lawrence Camp said he construed the supreme court's action as invalidating that section of Georgia's code setting up arbitrary presumption of fraud. He expressed belief prosecution still might be brought under the act, but that henceforth the state would have the burden of proof that fraud was intended.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

GEORGIA WORK LAW UNCONSTITUTIONAL

JAN 13 1942

Statute Permits Of Peonage, Court Declares

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12 —(AP)— The Supreme Court struck down a Georgia statute as unconstitutional Monday on the ground that under it workers could be held in peonage.

The law, pased in 1903, required employes to work out their debts to employers. It provided a year on the chain gang for any person who contracted to perform work for another, received pay in advance, and then failed to do the work or return the money.

The Georgia attorney general defended the law as a measure to punish fraud but counsel for Ira Taylor, a Negro convicted in a case involving $19.50, contended that it "operates to create and maintain a condition or system of peonage, in which large numbers of unfortunates are still being held."

The court, in an opinion written by Justice Byrnes, declared that "the necessary consequence" of the act "is that one who has received an advance on a contract for services which he is unable to repay is bound by the threat of penal sanction to remain at his employment until the debt has been discharged. Such coerced labor is peonage." It held that the law violated the 13th Amendment, which outlawed slavery and involuntary servitude.

JAN 13 1942

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

GEORGIA PEONAGE

JAN 24 1942

In an opinion written by Justice James Byrnes, the United States Supreme Court, Monday last, declared unconstitutional the Georgia statute which required employes to work out their debts to employers.

Passed in 1903, the Georgia peonage law has been applied for 39 years without mitigation. With his economic status frozen at a starvation level, the Negro worker in Georgia was more frequently victimized by this inexorable statute than was the white worker. Not only was he held in peonage, but the black man was made special recipient of tortures and brutalities that exceeded by far the atrocities of the Spanish inquisition, as evidenced by testimony given by a fugitive from a Georgia plantation during a hearing on an extradition warrant before the late Gov. Henry Horner of Illinois several years ago.

JAN 24 1942

At that time Doc Woods who had fled from the Cunningham plantation related in detail the barbaric punishment meted out to workers on the farm.

The issue from which grew the Supreme Court decision was that of Ira Taylor, a Negro convicted in a case involving $19.50. His counsel contended that the Georgia law "operates to create and maintain a condition or system of peonage in which large numbers of unfortunates are still being held."

The court held that the law violated the Thirteenth amendment which outlawed slavery and involuntary servitude except for crime. In a formal opinion Mr. Justice Byrnes declared that the effect of the law "is to authorize a jury to convict upon proof that an agreement has been reached, that money has been advanced on the strength of it, that the money has not been returned, that the appellant has failed or refused to perform the services 'without good and sufficient cause,' and nothing more."

The implication of this decision is that it withdraws criminal sanction behind mere failure to perform a civil contract. In so doing the court strikes down one of the most vicious systems that have tended to nullify the democratic charter of human freedom.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

A BLOW AT PEONAGE

JAN 14 1942

The forty-year-old Georgia Contract Labor Law, which the United States Supreme Court has just held unconstitutional, is said to have been invoked only one hundred times and to have been sustained by the Georgia courts of appeal only five times. A small matter, one might say. But peonage, or the threat of peonage, is not inconsequential, even though only a few are directly affected. The Supreme Court held, by the unanimous vote of the eight justices who participated, that the Georgia statute was, in fact, contrary to the intent of the Thirteenth Amendment, since it clearly imposed personal servitude as a punishment for debt.

The theory of the Georgia act was, indeed, that punishment was invoked, not for the debt itself, but for fraud, in that the accused person accepted money for services he did not intend to perform. Such a theory could hardly be sustained in any given case. A court or jury could not very well determine by objective evidence whether or not Ira Taylor or any one else meant to keep his contract. In most States the issue would have been civil, not criminal. In Georgia the law was apparently used to coerce debtors, and, as the Federal Department of Justice maintained, to force them into "involuntary service."

JAN 14 1942

The defendant in the Georgia case was a Negro. The same procedure, or the same intimidation, might, however, have been employed against friendless and penniless white men. The act was class legislation. It smelled of slavery. The court's decision should help strike down not only this form of peonage but other forms wherever found.

Atlanta, Ga. Journal
January 15, 1942

An Old Law Expunged

IT IS NOT LIKELY that any considerable number of Georgians will find fault with the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States voiding that act of our 1903 General Assembly which made it a crime, punishable by a year in the penitentiary, for a person to fail to repay, in work or in money, funds advanced by an employer.

The high court had no doubt about the unconstitutionality of the law. Its decision was unanimous. Nor can it be argued that the decision reflected any prejudice against our section. The opinion was written by Mr. Justice Byrnes, who is a South Carolinian. The argument against the statute was made by Georgians, Leonard Haas and Thomas T. Purdom, who had been engaged by the Atlanta Commission on Interracial Co-operation.

The case in question was that of a Negro of Wilkinson County who had been arrested for failing to pay rent of $4 a month for three months. An employer alleged he paid him out of jail and advanced him $19.50 on promise that the Negro would work out the debt by helping build a house for wages of $7.50 a week. The Negro failed to keep the alleged agreement, and in the trial denied he had made such agreement or had received the $19.50. He was found guilty, under the statute, as "a common cheat and swindler."

In the hearing before the United States Supreme Court, counsel for the defendant argued that the law "operates to create and maintain a condition or system of peonage in which large numbers of unfortunates are still being held." In his opinion Justice Byrnes declared "the necessary consequence of the act is that one who has received an advance on a contract for services, which he is unable to repay, is bound by the threat of penal sanction to remain in his employment until the debt is paid. Such coerced labor is peonage."

The 39-year-old statute had especial application to those perplexing relations between landlord and tenant in agriculture and the "furnishing" of supplies by the landlord in the interim before the harvest. It was written into the Georgia code because there were, and undoubtedly have been since then, many cases in which croppers abused the relationship. They accepted the advances from the purse of the landlord and dishonestly evaded their obligations by flight.

On the other hand, it is easily to be seen that what Justice Byrnes terms the "threat of penal sanction" could give to an unscrupulous landlord an arbitrary and unmerciful hold over the unfortunate and underprivileged humans whom he might desire to exploit.

It is against American principle to [illegible] for debt, unless there be evi[illegible]dulence in the transaction. [illegible] itself was founded, partly, as a haven for imprisoned debtors, so if it be true, as the Department of Justice has declared, that the involuntary service of debtors is being coerced in Georgia by the threat of prosecution under this statute, we rejoice that the law has been declared null and void.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

A BLOW TO PEONAGE

JAN 24 1942
JAN 24 1942

Georgia peonage received a hard blow last week when the United States Supreme Court unanimously decided that the notorious Georgia Contract Labor Law violated the Thirteenth Amendment and an Act of Congress forbidding peonage.

The case was one in which Ira Taylor, a Negro, renting a house for $4 a month, failed to pay three months' rent and was arrested. An employer paid the Sheriff's costs and obtained Taylor's release, advancing him $19.50 with the understanding that he was to "work out" his debt at the rate of $1.25 a day. Taylor was again arrested for failing to carry out the contract for personal services.

It is a familiar story to those acquainted with the workings of civilization in Georgia, and it is gratifying to have this old Georgia custom outlawed.

Slowly but surely the handicaps under which Negroes have so long labored in Georgia and other States are gradually being removed.

Ultimately colored citizens in this country are going to receive the full status of citizens.

Of course, it will not come in a day, a week or even a year, but if Negroes continue to intelligently use the courts and adequately finance these cases final victory is assured.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Step Carefully

MAR 7 - 1942

Some time ago, addressing a meeting of agriculturalists in Atlanta, Governor Talmadge said, according to the newspaper reports.

"I'll say this and let the newspapers go ahead and give me the devil for it. But if you are troubled with labor, just find yourself a convict and let me know." MAR 7 - 1942

Attorney General Biddle, at Washington, announced this week he had ordered the FBI to investigate allegations that convicts in Arkansas had been paroled from state prisons into "virtual peonage" on the plantations of Arkansas officials and legislators.

Just because there is reason to suspect that paroled convicts are being held in peonage in Arkansas is no ground to suspect similar conditions in Georgia.

However, Governor Talmadge rather opened a door to such a condition if he made the statement above, as quoted from his speech. Furthermore, the Governor's prefatory remark, inferring he expected the newspapers to "give him the devil for it," is in itself corroborative evidence of a sense of guilt. Unless his conscience hinted that what he was suggested was wrong, he would not anticipate condemnation from any source.

MAR 7 - 1942

Labor problems on Georgia farms may be acute. But no shortage of labor can excuse peonage. Let us hope the Governor had no such thought or, if he did, that he will think again and move with extreme caution on any such plan.

Georgia has been given more than enough ill repute in recent years, without inviting federal investigation on charges of peonage. Peonage is but a polite name for slavery—the very thing which we are now fighting to keep from the world, the very condition that Axis conquerors impose upon the sad workers of the conquered countries.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

'Georgia's Intent'

The Georgia debt law which the Supreme Court has unanimously condemned as a violation of the constitutional prohibition of involuntary servitude is unquestionably an evil piece of legislation; but it does not follow that it was evil in intent as it is in effect.

JAN 26 1942

The statute, which has been on the books for some forty-odd years, makes it a criminal offense for an employee to accept advances from an employer for work to be performed and then refuse to perform the work. The instant case was that of a carpenter who had been advanced $19.50 on the understanding that he would "work out" the debt at $1.25 a dab; subsequently, on charges that he had refused to perform the work, he was convicted as a "common cheat and swindler" and sentenced to jail. It is this conviction that the Supreme Court has held invalid.

Several other Southern States have comparable statutes which this decision presumably invalidates. They are not, however, attempts to re-establish the "peculiar institution" of human slavery; or, rather, that was not their purpose. They are an outgrowth of the vicious crop-lien system that has cursed the agricultural economy of the South since the Civil War. Under that system, tenants and share-croppers live all Winter on borrowed money, which is to be repaid from the proceeds of the crop to be raised during the following Summer. Naturally, when Spring comes, the tenant is under a strong temptation to walk out and go to work for someone else to whom he owes nothing and who will therefore pay him for his labor in cash, instead of in receipted bills.

JAN 26 1942

This is obviously a wrong, but the remedy at law, a civil action, was wholly ineffective. What is the use of obtaining a judgment against a man with no property and no prospect of acquiring any? The harassed landlords therefore had recourse to the criminal law; but in so doing they have undertaken to legalize peonage, says the high court. It was a fumbling effort to bolster a bad economic system, and its defeat is plainly justified; but it was not, as some people apparently have believed, a deliberate effort to reverse the results of the Civil War. — The Baltimore Sun.

35h-1942

Argus

St. Louis, Missouri

DOWN IN GEORGIA

JAN 16 1942

Despite the injustices from which we suffer, now and then something happens in the course of human events which gives us a ray of hope that the future may be better. The decision of the United States Supreme Court this week, rendering null and void a Georgia statute which made peonage possible in that state, is a decision for which we, as colored people of this country have long looked. Not necessarily because no white people were slaves under this practice, but rather because the Negroes were the principal victims under the peonage system as it operates in the South.

It has been a long fight on the part of those interested and the decision of the United States Supreme Court will have a far-reaching effect upon this practice, not only in Georgia, but also upon the system which is carried on in most Southern states. We were pleased to note that Attorney General Francis Biddle's office added its findings as a friend of the court, it being remembered that the Honorable Francis Biddle, now Attorney General, did, while Solicitor General, enter the Mitchell-Jim Crow law suit and advised as a friend of the United States court. The result was a sweeping victory over old man Jim Crow in the South.

Then, too, no less important in connection with this peonage decision is the fact that the opinion was written by Justice James F. Byrnes, former Senator from South Carolina, and the latest addition to the Supreme Court, appointed by President Roosevelt. It may be said with reference to Justice Byrnes' decision in this matter that his comments were sound, based upon the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution and was in line with the decision written by Justice Hugo Black of Alabama, freeing from death sentences the Florida Negroes who had been terrorized into confessions.

JAN 16 1942

Surely these decisions from these two Southern gentlemen who are members of the highest legal body of the nation, are rays of hope for the oppressed Negroes in this country.

However, we hope that Mr. Biddle's office, through the FBI, will follow up these cases and see that the provisions of the court's decisions are observed.

Age-Herald

Birmingham, Ala.

Against Peonage

JAN 14 1942

The Supreme Court, in an opinion written by Justice Byrnes, has declared a Georgia statute unconstitutional on the grounds that under it workers could be held in peonage.

The law, created in 1903, required employes to work out debts to employers. A year on the chain gang awaited anyone, upon conviction under the statute, who contracted to perform work, received money in advance for it and then failed to do the work or return the money.

JAN 14 1942

The counsel for a Negro who was convicted in a case involving $19.50, contended that the statute "operates to create and maintain a condition or system of peonage, in which large numbers of unfortunates are still being held."

JAN 14 1942

The Georgia attorney general, defending the law, stated that it was a measure to punish fraud. Any law which makes possible any form of peonage has no place on the statute books of any state of the nation.

Persons now in Georgia prisons who were convicted under the unconstitutional statute should receive the benefit of the ruling.

GEORGIA

Constitution

Atlanta, Georgia

ONE WORD MORE

JAN 19 1942

By RALPH McGILL

GEORGIA'S DEBT LAW I have waited for awhile to check the newspaper reaction to the recent decision by the supreme court invalidating one of Georgia's very bad laws.

It revealed that quite a few newspapers need to send their editorial writers to school, or at least urge them to investigate a bit before sounding off in high indignation.

The law reversed was the debt law which a Georgia legislature had passed more than 40 years ago. It held that a person could be imprisoned for taking money for service he did not intend to perform.

The case in question was the case of a Negro, Ira Taylor.

The supreme court held, quite properly, that objective evidence could not determine whether or not he meant to keep his contract. Ira Taylor, it was charged, had been advanced $19.50 for future work as a carpenter with the understanding he would work it out on the basis of $1.25 per day. He subsequently was charged with refusing to perform the work, and with being a "common cheat and swindler." He was sentenced to jail.

The supreme court invalidated the law and Ira Taylor is free.

The person who advanced the money, one may assume, is out $19.50.

The law was a bad one. It is, or was, similar to others in southern states. One assumes those laws are invalidated. That such laws do force one into involuntary servitude, is true. They should have been invalidated long ago.

JAN 19 1942

Of the more than 20 newspapers in which I read comments on the case, only one, the Baltimore Sun, had the correct analysis. Too many of the editorialists contented themselves with denunciation and referred to it merely as a quaint southern custom designed to maintain peonage conditions, or the slavery of pre-Civil War days.

OUTGROWTH OF SYSTEM The Sun, in commenting on the law, said it was not an effort to re-establish the "peculiar institution" of human slavery; or, rather, that was not their purpose. Said the Sun:

"They are an outgrowth of the vicious crop-lien system that has cursed the agricultural economy of the south since the civil war. Under that system, tenants and sharecroppers live all winter on borrowed money, which is to be repaid from the proceeds of the crop to be raised during the following summer. Naturally, when spring comes, the tenant is under a strong temptation to walk out and go to work for someone else to whom he owes nothing and who will therefore pay him for his labor in cash, instead of in receipted bills.

"This is obviously a wrong, but the remedy at law, a civil action, was wholly ineffective. What is the use of obtaining a judgment against a man with no property and no prospect of acquiring any? The harassed landlords therefore had recourse to the criminal law; but in so doing they have undertaken to legalize peonage, says the high court. It was a fumbling effort to bolster a bad economic system, and its defeat is plainly justified; but it was not, as some people apparently have believed, a deliberate effort to reverse the results of the Civil War."

JAN 19 1942

In this, of course, the Sun is perfectly correct. The men who advanced money are out the money. They too often well deserved to be "out" of it, but that is another point. They did advance money. They did not obtain the contracted value of that money. Not knowing how to correct their own economic system—

They passed a law.

THE TENANT SYSTEM There is nothing wrong, per se, with tenant farming just as there is nothing wrong, per se, with an absolute monarchy or a totalitarian form of government.

If the dictator, or monarch, is honest, fair, kind and allows the people liberty, complete justice and so on, it is a most efficient and splendid form of government.

The trouble with our crop-lien system in the cotton states has been that too often the owner was just as hungry and broke as his croppers. The bank was carrying him. The store was carrying him. He was trying to carry his croppers.

There are many instances of a fine tenant-owner, or sharecropper-owner relationship. But, it must be admitted, most of them were not good for the simple reason they are not good economics. They couldn't be good.

The sharecropper too often was cheated and duped. He was sold goods and food at outrageously high prices. He was sold supplies at the same high percentage of profit for the owner. Neither seemed to make much out of it.

The system was, and is, bad. The law was bad. Not until something is done for the system will it improve.

It was just a fumbling effort on the part of a futile system, to protect its money.

JAN 19 1942

There is another evil in Georgia which one of these days will be removed. It is the vicious custom of letting convicts out of work camps on parole to work on farms and then arresting them just before the time is up and keeping them on the farms in a condition of peonage. This happens in a few small counties in Georgia where a few men rule the county. It is difficult to run down. It is difficult to correct. It is more widespread than one would believe.

New York Times

New York, N. Y.

GEORGIA DEBT LAW UPSET AS PEONAGE

JAN 13 1942

Supreme Court Unanimously Finds Act Invalid Under Constitution and U. S. Law

NEGRO HAD BEEN ARRESTED

Justice Department Entered Into Case of Man Held for Not 'Working Out' Sum Due

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12—On the ground that the "Georgia Contract Labor Law" violated the anti-Slavery Amendment to the Constitution and an Act of Congress forbidding peonage, the forty-year-old State statute was held unconstitutional by a unanimous Supreme Court decision today.

Under the Georgia law it was a crime for a person to fail to repay, either in work or in money, funds advanced by an employer. Denouncing the statute, Justice Byrnes said for the undivided court:

JAN 13 1942

"One who has received an advance on a contract for services which he is unable to repay is bound by the threat of penal sanction to remain at his employment until the debt has been discharged. Such coerced labor is peonage.

"Peonage is a form of involuntary servitude within the meaning of the Thirteenth Amendment and the Congressional Act of 1867 is an appropriate implementation of that amendment. The sections of the Georgia Code are repugnant to the Thirteenth Amendment and the Act of 1867 and the conviction must therefore be reversed."

The principal in this case was Ira Taylor, a Negro, now freed by the Supreme Court after conviction by various Georgia courts, including the State Supreme Court.

Renting a house at $4 a month, he failed to pay rent for three months and was arrested. An employer paid the Sheriff's costs, obtained Taylor's release and advanced him $19.50 on promise that the Negro would "work out" his debt by helping build a house at $1.25 a day.

JAN 13 1942

Subsequently Taylor was apprehended under the Georgia law through which a man could be "deemed a common cheat and swindler" upon a showing that he received an advance from his employer and failed to carry out a contract for personal services.

Under the Georgia laws, Justice Byrnes stated, Taylor was not allowed to testify under oath, but he was permitted to make an unsworn statement in which he generally denied that he had entered an agreement or that the complaining witness had paid him the $19.50.

Showing considerable indignation, the Department of Justice intervened in this case. Before the Supreme Court, Georgia, asserted that the law had been invoked only about 100 times and that only five of these cases had been upheld in its highest courts.

Extra payments for golf privileges at country clubs are subject to the 10 per cent government tax on "dues and membership fees," the Supreme Court unanimously held in cases affecting the Merion Cricket Club of Philadelphia and the Winchester (Mass.) Country Club. Justice Jackson wrote the opinions.

JAN 13 1942

An order of the Interstate Commerce Commission construing the "grandfather clause" of the 1935 Motor Carrier Act, which was fought by seventy-one railroads, was upheld in another unanimous decision written by Justice Douglas. The "grandfather clause" requires that operating permits for specified territory must be issued for trucks which were working as common carriers in the area on June 1, 1935, and afterward.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Two Georgians To Aid Slavery Charge Probe

APR 23 1942

Attorney General Biddle appointed two Georgia lawyers yesterday to help direct an investigation by a Federal grand jury at Macon, Ga., into "the alleged slavery practices of William Toliver Cunningham, of Lexington, Ga."

The lawyers, who will have the rank of special assistant to the Attorney General, are Barry Wright, of Rome, and William Anderson Sutherland, of Atlanta. They will cooperate with T. Hoyt Davis, United States attorney for the Middle District of Georgia, in the investigation.

The Justice Department said in a statement that it had complaints of Cunningham had established "a system of slavery on his Oglethorpe County plantation."

"According to the complaints," the Department said, "Oglethorpe County court records show that Cunningham has repeatedly sharged Negro field hands who left or "escaped" his employment with past misdemeanors, reemploying them after their arrest and after short terms on the chain gang.

APR 23 1942

"The complaints allege that Cunningham recruited a substantial part of his plantation labor from local jails by paying the fines of Negro prisoners and, in some instances, arranging for their bond and for the subsequent dismissal of charges against them. On one occasion, the complaints charge, Cunningham accompanied an Oglethorpe County officer to Chicago, Ill., to assist in an unsuccessful attempt to extradite three former employes whom he had caused to be indicted after leaving his employment."

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Renew Peonage Prosecution, Biddle Is Urged

APR 13 1942

217 Prominent Citizens Petition for Action in Georgia Cases

Atty. Gen. Francis Biddle has before him a letter signed by 217 prominent individuals urging the government to renew prosecution of the peonage cases against two Georgia landlords, Rep. Vito Marcantonio, president of the International Labor Defense, said yesterday.

The landlords, who were indicted by a Chicago Grand Jury for holding Negro tenants in peonage or virtual slavery, are William Toliver Cunningham and Hamilton McWhirter, both of Oglethorpe County, Ga.

APR 13 1942

The peonage charge was based on the attempts of both men to have Negro tenants who had escaped from their plantations arrested in Chicago on framed up charges and returned to Georgia. Indictments against both men have been inactive since proceedings in the federal courts in Georgia failed to secure the transfer of the landlords to Chicago for trial.

Pleading for immediate renewal of the prosecution of Cunningham and McWhirter, the letter said:

"We urge that the trial of these two men is desirable from every point of view. It would strengthen the faith of millions of Negro people in the democracy for which they are loyally fighting against the aggressor fascist powers. A conviction would be an instrument toward setting free probably thousands of Negro peons. On the other hand, failure of the government to attempt by further action in the courts to overcome the temporary setback it has received in its prosecution would be a source of discouragement for millions.

"We therefore join in requesting that you take prompt and effective action looking to the early and successful prosecution of these two men."

APR 13 1942

The 217 signers of the letter came from 34 states and included leading educators and leading individuals in all fields. Among them were:

Algernon D. Black, New York City, Society for Ethical Culture; Sophonisba P. Breckenridge, Chicago, Ill., Prof. Public Welfare School of Social Service, University of Chicago; Louis Bromfield, Lucas, Ohio; Bishop George E. Curry, Jacksonville, Florida; Hon. Earl B. Dickerson, Chicago, Ill., member, President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices; Sherwood Eddy, New York City; Prof. Irwin Edman, Columbia University, New York City; Rabbi William H. Fineshriber, Philadelphia, Pa.; Dorothy Canfied Fisher, writer; Bishop William Alfred Fountain, Atlanta, Georgia; Prof. Ellsworth Huntington, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.; Bishop Walter Mitchell, Phoenix, Arizona; Howard Chandler Robbins, General Theological Seminary, New York City; Helen Phelps Stokes, Old Bennington, Vt.; Ida M. Tarbell, New York City; Frances Taussig, New York City, Jewish Social Service Association; Prof. Mark Van Doren, New York City, Columbia University; Bishop Noah W. Williams, St. Louis, Mo.; Dr. Mary E. Woolley, Westport, N. Y., President Emeritus Mt. Holyoke College; Hon. Adolph J. Sabath Washington, D. C., Margaret Sanger, New York City, Birth Control Federation; Prof. Oswald Voblon, Princeton, N. J.

APR 13 1942

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

TWO GEORGIA LAWYERS TO LEAD PROBE

MAY 2 - 1942

Federal Grand Jury Will Study Slave Charges Against Farmers

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Attorney General Francis Biddle Thursday announced the appointment of Barry Wright, of Rome, Ga., and William Anderson Sutherland, of the Atlanta law firm of Sutherland, Tuttle and Brennan, as special assistants to the attorney general, to cooperate with T. Hoyt Davis, United States attorney for the middle district of Georgia, in directing an investigation by a federal grand jury, at Macon, Ga., into the alleged slavery practices of William Toliver Cunningham, of Lexington, Ga.

MAY 2 - 1942

In complaints filed with the Department of Justice, Cunningham is charged with establishing and maintaining a system of slavery on his Oglethorpe county plantation.

According to the complaints, Oglethorpe county court records show that Cunningham has repeatedly charged Negro field hands who left or "escaped" his employment with past misdemeanors, reemploying them after their arrest and short terms on the chain gang.

The complaints allege that Cunningham recruited a substantial part of his plantation labor from local jails by paying the fines of Negro prisoners and, in some instances, arranging for their bond and for the subsequent dismissal of charges against them.

On one occasion, the complaints charge, Cunningham accompanied an Oglethorpe county officer to Chicago, Ill., to assist in an unsuccessful attempt to extradite three former employes whom he had caused to be indicted after leaving his employment.

MAY 2 - 1942

Biddle said the appointment of Wright and Sutherland, two outstanding members of the Georgia bar, was made upon the recommendation of Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge, in charge of the criminal division.

35h-1942

Telegraph
Macon, Georgi

Talmadge Defends Freeing of Convicts

[*Special to The Telegraph*]

PINEHURST, March 12—Governor Eugene Talmadge acknowledged Thursday night he had freed a "great number" of convicts to the farms and the Army, but emphasized that none of the paroled or pardoned men was "working on my farm or on that of any member of the state prison commission."

Addressing a capacity throng at a local defense rally, the governor said he "would fire any commissioner who works a freed convict on his farm, just as I would expect the people of Georgia to fire me if I worked any of them on mine."

'HOG MEAT[PEANUTS'

"It will take hog meat, peanuts, cotton and lots of hard work to win this war," the governor said, "and I would rather see every business in the state of Georgia conscripted than to be dictated to by slant-eyed Japs."

Talmadge said he thought it "would be worthwhile for all these beautiful girls to get some tan in their cheeks by outside work."

"We have taught our children to be peace-loving," he continued, "and now we've got to retract that and teach them to be tough and mean."

DEFENSE WORK LAUDED

The governor was presented by Mayor P. G. Tucker, of Pinehurst. H. P. Draughon presided, and presented Mayor E. H. Conner of Unadilla, and Leo H. Browning, president of Middle Georgia College, Cochran.

Pinehurst's achievement in exceeding its Red Cross war relief quota by $600 in piling up a mountain of scrap metal to slap the Japs. in nutrition and first aid and other wartime efforts were roundly applauded.

The Masonic Youth band from Ashburn opened the meeting with "The Star Spangled Banner."

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Action Looms In Ga. Peonage Case

CHICAGO—(A N P) — The department of justice has requested Atty. William Henry Huff, chief counsel, Abolish Peonage committee, to furnish the names and addresses of all the witnesses in the Oglethrope county, Georgia, peonage matter, indicating there will be immediate action in the case.

Atty. Huff has complied by furnishing the department with the names and addresses of, whereabouts of 44 persons who are witnesses in the case. Some of these witnesses are in Chicago, some in Baltimore, some in Georgia, and some in South Carolina.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Term Practice A Clear Case Of Peonage

MAR 26 1942

Letter Sent To Attorney-Gen'l

By F. McAllister

An investigation has been asked of the U. S. Department of Justice into charges that Governor Eugene Talmadge is paroling chain gang prisoners to work out the balance of their sentence on privately-owned farms.

In a letter to Attorney General Francis Biddle, Frank McCallister, southern secretary of the Workers Defense League, said: "Daily newspapers in Atlanta carry stories the past week indicating that Governor Talmadge of this state is paroling convicts to privately owned farms to work out their sentences.

"Tuesday, March 10th, the Governor approved 33 pardons and paroles, mostly to Negroes, on condition that the prisoners work out the balance of sentence. The Governor said in a recent public address, 'we're going to put 'em to work during the war, and if they don't work, we are going to put them back in the gang.'"

MAR 2

This is plain peonage and deserves immediate investigation by your civil liberties unit."

McCallister reported that a special investigator has been added to the staff of the Georgia Prison Commission to "work up" farm labor paroles and that it was reported to be doing a land office business in assigning convict labor to Georgia farms.

GEORGIA
Amsterdam Star-News
New York, N. Y.

The PEOPLE Speak

Peonage Overlords Use Negro As Pawn

By WILLIAM HENRY HUFF

I have just received some distressing letters from in and around Athens, Georgia. I mean by distressing that the information which the letters contain appears to be distressing to the senders of the letters. It is in no way distressing to me. These friends advise me that a certain Negro preacher is being put up by the peonage overlords to bring some sort of action against me. They say he is going from house to house in search of letters I have written about him. I am advising my friends, enemies, or what not, to give this preacher or his representatives any letter I have ever written about him. I have no fear.

AUG 1 1942

My friends advise me that the (certain) white persons are behind the proposition. This I would have known anyway, as I well know the history and tactics of the peonage overlords and slavery brutes. I say, I advise any person to whom I have written to give up any letter I have written mentioning the name of the preacher at issue, or any Negro, for that matter. An action of this kind will open wide the gates whereby the alleged unholy alliance between those who hold my people to a condition of peonage and certain so-called Negro leaders, or front men, will be exposed.

It must not be forgotten that old Jim Smith, perhaps the biggest and most cruel peonage overlord of all time, had his Negro front men in Oglethorpe County, Georgia. I know several of them personally. It must not be forgotten that planter John S. Williams of Jasper County, Georgia, had his Negro front men, one of whom confessed that he killed and buried 11 Negroes at his master's behest.

Crusader's Right Rugged

I well know that the way of the crusader for right, righteousness and humanity leads by the thorn road, and that those who tread the way must carry the cross with bleeding feet and the deep into their side will be thrust the spear. Negroes who are styled as leaders, or who style themselves as leaders, are subject to constructive criticism, without malice, when they err, as much as anyone else, and they will get it. God knows I have no malice against anyone, not even the peonage overlords themselves.

AUG 1 1942

I have freely criticized certain individuals who, by their words and acts, have shown themselves to be inimical to the best interest of the poor, defenseless Negro peons. In other words, I have criticized those who, by their words and acts, admit they are neither for nor in harmony with that democracy for which men and nations are offering their all today.

Jailed For Telling Truth

William Lloyd Garrison was hailed into court and into jail at Baltimore because he told the truth about Northern ship owners using their ships to transport Negroes to slavery; Governor Edward Coles, of Illinois, was sued because he emancipated his own slaves en route to Illinois from his and their Virginia home; Harold Johnson, a white gentleman of Winterville, Georgia, is said to have committed suicide because, in his noble attempt to break up the crime of peonage thereabout, he was betrayed by Negro front men—Uncle Tom stool pigeons—and for a mess pottage.

My grandmother often told me how three of my forebears gave the last full measure of devotion at Red Bank under Colonel Christopher Greene in the War of Independence that America—great and glorious America—might be a free country. Knowing all this, how could I expect to go through a gigantic crusade, the purpose of which being to open the door of freedom to those farthest down in our American system—the peons—without walking on thorns and being pierced in the side? Let him bring his suit. Though the peonage overlords employ as many Negroes to start spite actions against me as there are stars in the beautiful skies, the crusade against peonage, the most un-American of all un-American activities—will go on. God helping, Peonage Must Be Abolished.

AUG 1 1942

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Huff Peeved About Oglethorpe Cases

CHICAGO.— (ANP) — Attorney William Henry Huff, chief counsel for Abolish Peonage committee, scored the United States Justice department this week for its failure to institute proceedings on indictments returned in the Cunningham peonage case of Oglethorpe county, Ga.

The lawyer made his statements after the Office of War Information announced the department of justice was investigating 34 different cases of peonage.

"Why gloat about 34 insignificant peonage cases, while doing nothing about one of the most notorious peonage cases this country or any other county has ever known or heard of," declared Huff.

Cunningham is a wealthy farmer in Oglethorpe County, Ga., indicted along with an associate by a federal grand jury sitting at Chicago on charges he operated a peonage farm.

The lawyer said the government knew the facts in the case because he had personally given them details. Later Joseph Lyman, a former assistant United States attorney general and an agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, probed his charges and found them to be true.

This information was presented to the jury and served as the chief basis for the indictments.

"Why not prosecute the Oglethorpe county overlord who is charged with having whipped a poor defenseless Negro woman into insensibility with a buggy whip 30 days before she gave birth to a little brown baby," asked Huff.

"The man who carries on peonage operations in a wholesale manner disregarding law, order, and decency is left practically alone," he continued.

"Let the Office of War Information tell the waiting nation what is happening on the peonage front in Oglethorpe county. The scene of the one peonage case about which people of this democracy desire to know and to see cleared up first is in Oglethorpe county, Georgia.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Jailer Faces Jail On U. S. Peonage Practices Charge

FEB 22 1942

Charge He Worked Prisoners At His Business Without Pay

LOUISVILLE— (ANP)— ~~Facing~~ trial for violating the federal peonage law, County Jailer Marty Connors posted $2,500 bond Friday to keep himself out of his own jail. He is charged with forcing both Negro and white prisoners to work for him without pay in his private enterprises.

35-h

Chief complainant is Luther Darden, who last August "escaped"—allegedly with the consent of ~~of Connors—~~ and later went to Chicago where he worked as a dining car waiter. Aiding the government is Atty. William Henry Huff of Chicago of the Abolish Peonage committee who is noted for his fight against peonage in Oglethorpe county, Georgia.

Also facing trial with Connors as an accomplice is Julius Berry, Negro employe, who was also released on a $2,500 bond. It is understood a county grand jury is ready to return indictments against both men.

THREE AS VICTIMS

In addition to Darden, Charles Brown Frank Schmitt and Frank Jordan were named as peonage victims. Berry is accused of helping "induce" the four prisoners to work for Connors without pay. Maximum penalty on conviction is seven years imprisonment and a $6,000 fine.

Darden was sentenced in September 1939, to serve a five year sentence for assault in battery. His employer, Charles D. Dunne, white, head of the Dunne Press, fought what he considered an unnecessarily harsh sentence and continued to show a deep personal interest. Connors, also a printer knew of Dunne's interest in Darden and during 1940 offered to help get Darden out of jail if Dunne would aid him in his difficulties with the Pressmen's union which threatened to take away his union label because he used Negro prisoners on the presses at his plant, according to Dunne.

Dunne said Connors allowed Darden to leave the jail for a while on week ends to work for Dunne, but later stopped this and put him to work on Connors' tourist camp. After several months Connors had more union trouble and again asked Dunne's help. The latter spoke again of Darden's release and last August he was allowed to go free. Darden stayed here several weeks, going about openly, and was never molested.

But last November the Courier-Journal, daily newspaper, carried an article expressing peonage at the Brookside camp. It was learned Darden had been one of the prisoners involved. A reporter traced and contacted him in Chicago and secured an affidavit published in the local paper. Connors, who had never reported his absence, then announced in January that Darden had "escaped" last August and began making attempts to get him back, seeking fruitlessly to enlist Dunne's aid.

Connors also made a trip to Chicago in an effort to apprehend Darden and force him to serve out the rest of his term. Learning he was a dining car waiter, he allegedly sought to have him removed from his run but was unsuccessful. It is believed he is now in the protective custody of the federal government as a key witness. Had Connors been able to seize him as a fugitive, there was the possibility that an "accident" in prison might have prevented any testimony against Connors.

The jailor faces county action for failure to report the "escape." It is charged that diet and release fees for Darden, covering periods when he was supposed to be in jail but wasn't, were paid by the county for credit to the jail's account with the state, the payments being made on vouchers from the jail, signed by one of Connors' deputies.

Berry, co-defendant now employed by Connors, served a jail sentence in 1939 for petit larceny.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Louisville Jailer Is Charged With Working Prisoners In Peonage Plot

FEB 28 1942

LOUISVILLE. — (ANP)— Facing trial for violating the federal peonage law, County Jailer Marty Connors posted $2,500 bond Thursday to keep himself out of his own jail. He is charged with forcing both Negro and white prisoners to work for him without pay in his private enterprises.

Chief complainant is Luther Darden, who last August "escaped"—allegedly with the consent of Connors—and later went to Chicago where he worked as a dining car waiter.

Aiding the government is Atty. William Henry Huff of Chicago of the Abolish Peonage committee who is noted for his ~~fight against~~ peonage in Oglethorpe county, Georgia.

Also facing trial with Connors as an accomplice is Julius Berry, Negro employe, who was also released on a $2,500 bond. It is understood a county grand jury is ready to return indictments against both men.

In addition to Darden, Charles Brown, Frank Schmitt and Frank Jordan were named as peonage victims. Berry ~~is accused~~ of helping "induce" the four prisoners to work for Connors without pay. Maximum penalty on conviction is seven years imprisonment and a $6,000 fine.

Darden was sentenced in September, 1939, to serve a five-year sentence for assault and battery. His employer, Charles D. Dunne, white head of the Dunne Press, fought what he considered an unnecessarily harsh sentence and continued to show a deep personal interest.

Connors, also a printer, knew of Dunne's interest in Darden and during 1940 offered to help get Darden out of jail if Dunne would aid him in his difficulties with the Pressmen's union which threatened to take away his union label because he used Negro prisoners ~~on~~ the presses at his ~~plant~~, according ~~to Dunne~~.

Dunne said Connors allowed Darden to leave the jail for a while on week ends to work for Dunne, but later stopped this and put him to work on Connors' tourist camp.

After several months Connors had more union trouble and again asked Dunne's help. The latter spoke again of Darden's release and last August he was allowed to go free. Darden stayed here several weeks, going about openly, and was never molested.

But last November the Courier Journal, daily newspaper, carried an article exposing peonage at the Brookside camp. It was learned Darden had been one of the prisoners involved.

A reporter traced and contacted him in Chicago and secured an affidavit published in the local paper. Connors, who had never reported his absence, then announced in January that Darden had "escaped" last August and began making attempts to get him back, seeking fruitlessly to enlist Dunne's aid.

Connors also made a trip to Chicago in an effort to apprehend Darden and force him to serve out the rest of his term. Learning he was a dining car waiter, he allegedly sought to have him removed from his run but was unsuccessful. It is believed he is now in the protective custody of the federal government as a key witness.

Had Connors been able to seize him as a fugitive, there was the possibility that an "accident" in prison might have prevented any testimony against Connors.

The jailer faces county action for failure to report the "escape.' 'It is charged that diet and release fees for Darden, covering periods when he was supposed to be in jail but wasn't, were paid by the county for credit to the jail's account with the state, the payments being made on vouchers from the jail, signed by one of Connors' deputies.

Berry, co-defendant now employed by Connors, served a jail sentence in 1939 for petit larceny.

35-h

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Ky. Jailer Worked Black, White Peons

FEB 28 1942

FEB 28 1942

LOUISVILLE (ANP).—Facing trial for violating the Federal peonage law, County Jailer Marty Connors posted $2,500 bond Thursday to keep himself out of his own jail. He is charged with forcing both colored and white prisoners to work for him without pay in his private enterprises.

Chief complainant is Luther Darden, who last August "escaped"—allegedly with the consent of Connors—and later went to Chicago where he worked as a dining car waiter. Aiding the Government is Attorney William Henry Huff, of Chicago, of the Abolish Peonage Committee, who is noted for his fight against peonage in Oglethorpe County, Ga.

Also facing trial with Connors as an accomplice is Julius Barry, colored employe, who was also released on a $2,500 bond. It is understood a county grand jury is ready to return indictments against both men.

FEB 28 1942

In addition to Darden, Charles Brown, Frank Schmitt and Frank Jordan were named as peonage victims. Berry is accused of helping "induce" the four prisoners to work for Connors without pay. Maximum penalty on conviction is seven years improsonment and a $6,000 fine.

Darden was sentenced in September, 1939, to serve a five-year sentence for assault and battery. His employer, Charles D. Dunne, white, head of the Dunne Press, fought what he considered an unnecessarily harsh sentence and continued to show a deep personal interest. Connors, also a printer, knew of Dunne's interest in Darden and during 1940 offered to help get Darden out of jail if Dunne would aid him in his difficulties with the Pressmen's Union which threatened to take away his union label because he used Negro prisoners on the presses at his plant, according to Dunne.

Peonage Is Not Wanted In Kentucky

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.

There are some curious features to the State's new parole law. There is no reason why men, carefully chosen and assured of the proper supervision, should not be paroled either for Army service or to take guaranteed employment. There are, as Mr. HENDERSON pointed out on Sunday and stresses on the opposite page today, many reasons why men who still have a debt to discharge to society and whose future good conduct should be assured by constant help and supervision, should neither be turned loose as a consequence of dubious political deals, nor victimized as forced labor by private employers.

AUG 24 1942

It seems to be true, as Mr. HENDERSON stresses, that under the new arrangement at least seventeen men have been paroled to prosperous Kentucky farmers to work for less than half the prevailing wage rate. Furthermore these men are in doubt as to their own rights under the agreement and one, at least, has received the impression that he must work out his entire sentence upon the same farm and for the same rate of pay.

Parole is not intended to accommodate employers temporarily short of help. It is a device to help the convicted man regain his former place in society under wise supervision. It is the responsibility of parole boards to extend parole only to those convicts who have discharged a reasonable part of their sentence, who have shown a real desire for reform and who show some signs of being willing to work if work can be found for them. There is little evidence that real thought and care are being put into the granting of parole under the new law. Men are released for enlistment with no guarantee that the Army will find them acceptable. No adequate supervision seems to be provided for the period during which they are uncertain of acceptance or rejection. Apparently if they can find a job or disappear conveniently, they are left alone. If the newspapers ask questions about them they are returned to jail.

The farming-out of prisoners at low rates of pay has ominous implications. As Mr. HENDERSON points out, there is nothing to prevent an extension of the system with all its attendant evils. If the men who have been paroled to Kentucky tobacco farmers are eligible for parole at all, they also are eligible to receive a prevailing wage and to change jobs if they can better themselves. Instead of parole, these men seem simply to have received a change of sentence.

AUG 24 1942

A thorough and immediate evaluation of the new law and its effects to date seems called for.

35h - 1942

MARYLAND

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Claims He Worked 50 Hours For 56 Cents

SEP 12 1942

SEP 12 1942

SALISBURY, Md. (ANP)—Some 50 Negroes, employed at Phillips brothers tomato farm here, are working under conditions "verging on peonage," it was charged last week by Harry Koker, CIO representative. Koger, who alleged that colored workers are picking tomatoes on the Phillips' farm for such low wages they are unable to pay transportation back home, said federal agencies are making "full investigation."

Attention was attracted to the farm when Engene Hardy declared he had worked 50 hours, supposedly at 40 cents an hour, yet drew only 56 cents. According to Hardy's story, when he protested, he was told $5 had been deducted for bus fare, but received no explanation as to what happened to the remaining $14.44.

The CIO representative, who also is national representative for the United Cannery, Agricultural Packing and Allied Workers, said after he uncovered facts in the case he conferred with officials of the department of justice, the Farm Security agency and the United States Employment service.

SEP 12 1942

35h-1942
Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

MARYLAND

'Peonage Labor' Reports Called Fantastic by Maryland Official

By the Associated Press

Salisbury, Md., Aug. 29.—S. Lee Engler, head of the Salisbury office of the Maryland Employment Service, said today that reports 50 Winston-Salem, N. C., Negroes were working there under conditions "verging on peonage" appeared to be "fantastic."

In the North Carolina city, Harry Koger, a C. I. O. representative, declared Eugene Hardy of Winston-Salem claimed he worked on a Salisbury tomato farm about 50 hours, ostensibly at 40 cents per hour, but received only 56 cents.

According to Hardy, when he protested he was told that $5 had been deducted for bus fare, but there was no explanation as to what happened to the remaining $14.44.

"I am conducting an investigation at the present time, and have yet found no substantiation of the 'peonage' charge presented to us," Engler said.

"Although my investigation is not complete, I have found nothing like the reports carried back to Winston-Salem by migrant Negroes who worked here."

"In the case of Eugene Hardy, I have been able to find only two days, August 13 and 14, on which he worked. His pay for these two days was $6, and from that $5 was deducted for bus fare to Salisbury. There also was a deduction of six cents for social security."

Koger, international representative for the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers said he had conferred in Washington with Department of Justice, Farm Security Administration and United States Employment Service officials on Hardy's claims.

He said migrant Negroes from Winston-Salem that picked tomatoes on the Phillips brothers farm near Salisbury were paid such low wages they were unable to purchase transportation home and must continue working in order to live.

Engler said that to his knowledge not "one migrant worker" was stranded in this area.

"Those still here are still working. Some have gone home and others followed the crops up to Long Island."

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Say Peonage Practiced On Tomato Farm

SEP 5 1942

SALISBURY, Md.—(ANP)—Some 50 Negroes, employed at Phillips brothers tomato farm here, are working under conditions "verging on peonage," it was charged last week by Harry Koger, CIO representative. Koger, who alleged that colored workers are picking tomatoes on the Phillips' farm for such low wages they are unable to pay transportation back home, said federal agencies are making "ful investigation."

SEP 5 1942

Attention was attracted to the farm when Eugene Hardy declared he had worked 50 hours, supposedly at 40 cents an hour, yet drew only 56 cents. According to Hardy's story, when he protested, he was told $5 had been deducted for bus fare, but received no explanation as to what happened to the remaining $14.44.

MISSISSIPPI

35h-1942

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Mistreatment On Miss. Farm Is Disclosed

Woman Flees Plantation, Tells Story

MAR 21 1942

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.—(SNS)—Another story of semi-slavery was told here this week by a woman who said she escaped from a Mississippi Plantation. She gave the name of Mrs. Mary Hamilton and said her home is East St. Louis, Illinois.

On arriving here, Mrs. Hamilton first told her story to several men at a local railroad station.

Mrs. Hamilton said, "I was recruited along with 75 or 80 more men and women, from our homes, by one, Captain Ball, who said he was a cane plantation owner in Hiding Valley, Miss. We were promised $2 a day and our board, but we never got any money whatever. On arriving in Jackson, Miss., we were packed in a long truck as a mode of transportation to Hiding Valley, Miss. [illegible]ll of us slept in one long [illegible]g, that is, men and women [illegible] the same bulding with no [illegible]on whatever to separate us, [illegible]ach woman was assigned to [illegible]; that was Captain Ball's law.

"We were made [illegible] picking cotton from 4 A. M. to 8 [illegible] M. and were herded by guards on horses with whips. Young women who were considered capable of becoming mothers were thrown in a big house called the 'breeding house' with a big Negro man. These men were called 'breeders.' Disobedient men and women were lashed to death and weighted down with weights and thrown in the canal. There were no holidays for us, we worked on Sunday as if it was Monday. There were no schools or churches on the plantation.

"For fifteen years I was there laboring under those conditions, but on March 8, 1942, through the assistance of Mr. Aaron Sharon, white, canal boat operator, who carried me across the river under cover of a heavy rain, I was able to make my escape. This white gentleman gave me fifty cents, and I walked with my small baby to Walls, Miss., where I was caught, in my first attempt to escape.

"I was returned to the plantation, and whipped with a blackjack by Captain Ball, which resulted in my arm being broken in five places. My arm was later taken off. My second attempt to escape was successful. A good white woman gave me the clothes I have on, and I begged nickels and dimes to buy a ticket to Baton Rouge, La. I later begged enough money to buy a ticket to Chattanooga. I have only $2.13 now and I am trying to get to my people in Martin, Tenn., or Gleason, Tenn."

Mrs. Hamilton told the above pitiful story to Booker T. Davis, of Chattanooga; Wilson Q. Gaines of Morristown, Tenn.; and Sgt. Eddie M. Cox, of Humboldt, Tenn. These men are reported to have made up enough money in a local railroad station, where she told this story to hey her a ticket to Martin, Tenn.

(This story was presented to the Chattanooga Observer for publication by one, Norman Whatley of Chattanooga.) Mr. Whatley said "We plan to convey this story of Mrs. Hamilton to President Roosevelt.

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

Victim Of Missouri Bootheel Justice In Homer G. Hospital

FEB 20 1942

Cotton Picker Shot in Face

Lying in Phillips Hospital with doctors fighting to save him from infection from shotgu npellets fired into his body, Dave McGinnis, 36, cotton picker, would have been carried back to the plantation in the Boot Heel cotton belt of Mo. Monday but for his low condition.

He was wounded by a white plantation sub-boss Feb. 3 and thrown in jail for six days without medical attention then tried by four men and sentenced to five years for assault but paroled providing that he stay out of the state, according to the story. A sheriff from New Madrid was here to take him back last Monday on the parole violation charge.

It was reported that McGinnis might lose both eyes.

From three sources, a police report, a reporter's interview and a correspondent, the Argus obtained similar accounts of the horrifying fate that befell McGinnis.

FEB 20 1942

Thrown In Jail

He stated that he left St. [illegible] a year ago to pick cotton and he got a job on Paul Carruther's plantation at Catrick, 18 miles from New Madrid. He and his wife got a fairly nice cabin with a radio and nice furniture. One of the white bosses could not get along with him because he appeared too prosperous and independent.

FEB 20 1942

Feb. 3 the grudge exploded when the boss Paul Rooten came up as he was talking with "T. B." a fellow worker and ordered him to not talk so loud and cursing. He told Rooten he was not cursing, whereon Rooten said, you're a smart nig——, get moving. Rooten stood his ground whereon Rooten hurled one of two hammers he was carrying striking him in the chest.

To defend himself, McGinnis was said to have run into his cabin and got a black jack and struck Rooten with it causing him to flee. A short time later, Walter White, plantation overseer knocked at the door and as he opened it White fired a shotgun blast into his face. A she fled into the house, White fired a second charge from the gun striking him in the arm.

FEB 20 1942

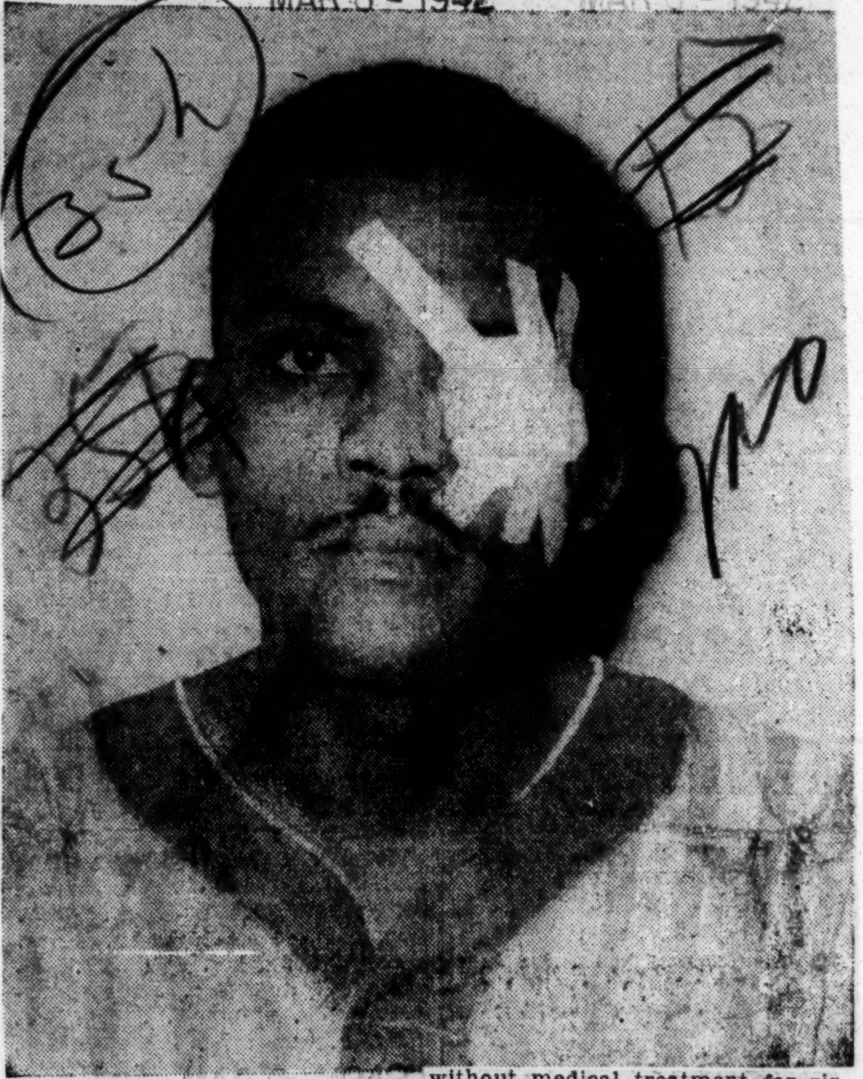
Paul Carruthers, the Plantation owner was attracted by the shots an dtold the men to take McGinnis to the hospital. Instead, it was reported he was thrown in jail at New Madrid where he remained with his wounds unattended until his trial by four men.

He was driven to St. Louis by a friend, Rogers Vaughn of Hodges Park, Cairo. His wife Ollie accompanied to the hospital, where he was confined Feb. 12. A sister-in-law, Ora Lee McGinnis resides at 1410 Francis street.

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

Shotgun Victim's Eye Removed

MAR 6 - 1942



35h

Mo

MAR 6 - 1942

Dave McGinnis, 36, cotton picker, who was shot in the face with a shotgun by a cotton plantation subboss at Catrick, 18 miles from New Madrid, Mo., Feb. 3. His left eye was removed last week at Phillips Hospital. His right eye also contains pellets and may be lost.

MAR 6 - 1942

McGinnis was reported shot after he defended himself against an overseer who hit him with a hammer. He was thrown in jail without medical treatment for six days and infection set in his wounds. He was brought to St. Louis after a trial before four or five men in which he was sentenced to five years and paroled out of state. When it was learned he was here, authorities from New Madrid ordered his arrested for violation of parole. He will be returned as soon as he recovers sufficiently to go.

35h-1942

SOUTH CAROLINA

Negro Fights Exile to South For Escaping Share-Cropping

35h

PM New York, N.Y.

By Erwin van Swol

AUG 30 1942

David Williams, 47-year-old Negro sharecropper, is sitting in the Union County jail, Elizabeth, N. J., waiting to find out if New Jersey is going to send him back to a life of peonage in his native state of South Carolina.

There's a deputy sheriff watching him constantly so that he won't commit suicide, and a minister visits him there. But if Gov. Edison decides to go through with a warrant for his extradition, he'll go back to Timmonsville, S. C., whether he likes it or not, first to a jail sentence.

Then, for the rest of his life, he'll be caught in the web of South Carolina's sharecropper laws, specifically designed to keep Negroes under the thumbs of their bosses.

Officially Williams is a fugitive from justice, on a charge of fraud. Actually, his only crime is that he got tired of being hungry, got sick of toiling his life away on a 50-acre plot raising cotton and tobacco, working from dawn to dark with his wife, and the four eldest of his seven children, for $25 a month for the six of them.

Came North

He quit, came North and got himself a job paying $28 weekly for 40 hours of work.

That is why Williams is in jail.

The legal documents don't put it that way. They say that Williams violated sections 1305, 6, 8, 9 and 12 of the 1932 Criminal Code of South Carolina. These provide that a person who makes a contract, in consideration or by reason of which he receives money, goods or other things of value, and thereafter fails to live up to his employment contract, shall be deemed to have made a contract for the purpose of defrauding the other contracting party.

An almost identical statute of the State of Georgia was set aside by the U. S. Supreme Court in January, as providing for slavery in violation of the 13th amendment.

The Real Charge

If you boil down the legal verbiage of the complaint, you find that Williams is accused of promising to work for Cleo Young for an indeterminate time and that he was supposed to give his boss a year's notice. He also is accused of the misappropriation of monies not due him until the termination of his contract.

The warrant for William's extradition came to the New Jersey Justice Dept. on the form used for this sort of "fugitive slave" business, and was handled in routine fashion. It was signed by the Governor.

But friends of Williams do not believe that the Governor was aware of the nature of the case, and are asking him to revoke the extradition warrant. On Thursday Judge Walter L. Hatfield III, in Union County Court, heard a writ of habeas corpus sworn out in Williams's behalf, and adjourned the case until Tuesday morning. This will give lawyers for Williams a chance to appeal to the Governor.

This is the story as Williams and his lawyers tell it:

He worked on Cleo Young's plantation from 1931 to Apr. 25 last. He says he never had any contract with Young, not even a verbal one, and that he felt free to leave the job because he and his family couldn't live decently. He has seven children, ranging from one year old to 20.

There was nothing to eat in his cabin except a bag of flour when an AAA check which was due him arrived on April 25. He cashed this check and with part of the proceeds came North.

Lands Job

He landed a job at the High Grade Cement Block Mfg. Co., Linden, N. J., saved his money and had his wife, Rebecca, and two of the smaller children join him. He rented a place at 1620 Wood Ave., Linden.

His two oldest daughters married in Timmonsville and minded the other youngsters. Williams was saving to bring them North when he was arrested early this month.

PM got Cleo Young on the telephone. He was astonished that anybody should take the trouble to call him about Williams. He said:

"What are you-all so interested for? It's none of your business, and I'm not going to tell you a damn thing."

Attorney General John M. Daniel, of South Carolina, had no personal knowledge of the case. When some of the details were given him, he interjected:

"Oh, that's breaking a contract and escaping. Those cases are handled by county solicitors."

Williams Gets Help

Among organizations fighting extradition of Williams are the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, International Labor Defense, North Jersey Committee Against Racial Discrimination, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Urban League.

His attorneys say:

"The crime which David Williams is accused of having committed is his refusal to continue working for 65 cents a day. To force him to return to South Carolina to toil involuntarily would reduce him to slavery and would be a violation of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution.

"In these days when America is struggling on the battlefields to save its democratic institutions, we have a right to expect that they will be preserved here at home."

35h-1942

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

WIDOW OF "WILLIAM TELL" VICTIM SUES WHITE AUTO DEALER HERE; SAYS HUSBAND WAS VIRTUAL PEON

APR 4 - 1942

Jack Roach, Who Fatally Shot His Colored Porter In Party Prank, Named Defendant In $25,825 Suit

IS RELEASED ON PAROLE

HOUSTON, ~~Texas.~~—Suit for $25,825, together with interest over a period of two years and cost of court, has been entered against Jack Roach, wealthy white Houston automobile dealer, by Mrs. Luverta Payne, Galveston, county, here.

The suit was filed by Attorneys Robert P. Beman, Jr., Frank A. Staufer and Albert DeLange.

Mrs. Luverta Payne, complains of "damages suffered through wrongful acts of Jack Roach which resulted in the death of Olivia Payne (husband) in June, 1940.

The allegation further points out that "Payne was employed by Roach on his ranch near Webster, Texas, after he had been convicted of a felony and Roach had procured his release on parole, and was under the direct supervision of Roach."

Mrs. Payne states in the charges that "Payne was kept in virtual peonage and Roach prevented and refused to permit him to leave premises. He was forced to stand with objects on his head to be shot off. Roach had complete control, dominion and duress over Payne."

APR 4 1942

Accidental Death Recalled

Roach is accused by Mrs. Payne of giving a barbecue at his ranch where guests and himself were drinking and that he compelled Payne to have an object placed on his head, and while attempting to shoot the object off, killed Payne with a pistol.

Mrs. Payne declares in the suit that "Payne was 38 at the time of his death, strong, vigorous, and capable of earning $125 a month, board and sustenance."

She seeks $15 000 damages with interest from the date of Payne's death at the rate of six percent per annum, and exemplary damages of $10,000.

Roach is additionally charged with converting to his own use and benefit, property belonging to Payne, being community property of Luverta Payne and Olivia Payne, namely: three horses, valued at $100 each; one colt, valued at $75 one automobile valued at $350; and other property valued at $100, for which a claim is asked for $825 and interest of six percent per annum from June, 1940 until paid.

Says She Signed Blank Instrument

Mrs. Payne states that she was forced to sign a blank instrument, purported to be a receipt for funeral expenses and that Roach now claims instrument is a release, but informs the court that "any purported release is invalid, illegal and wrongful on account of false representations."

Acknowledgment of Roach's paying of Payne's funeral expenses is listed in the petition.

TEXAS
Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

White Texan And Daughter Jailed In Horrible Peonage Expose

SEP 26 1942

354

SEP 26 1942

BEEVILLE, Texas, Sept 24—(ANP)—"The most dastardly crime ever committed," was the reaction of officers here, where last Tuesday, an unnamed elderly white man and his daughter were jailed for holding in slavery fully four years, an aged Negro, at least 70, who showed evidence of frequent beatings with an eight-inch leather bull-whip and assault with stocks and stones. The Negro has been "freed," fed, clothed, and placed under a doctor's care. All are native Texans.

The aged "hireling," according to information, never received a penny of pay and was threatened with death if he attempted escape. He told Sheriff W. J. Corrigan he slept in the chicken house, made his own pasty cornbread, which, with skimmed milk, was his only food. Tall and gaunt, he could hardly stand when rescued. Tears streamed down his face as he talked.

SEP 26 1942

The white father, held on $5,000 bond, and his daughter, released on a $250 bond, were both charged with "maiming and disfiguring." He produced the bull-whip on officer's request, said it made slave-work faster.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Jail Couple For Enslaving Aged Man For 4 Years

SEP 25 1942

Victim Had Been Beaten, Starved; Lived in Shack

SEP 25 1942

BEEVILLE, Tex.—(ANP)—A story of brutality matched only by that found in "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was unfolded here last Tuesday with the arrest of an elderly white man and his daughter and the "freeing" of a Negro who had been kept in slavery four years.

Local law officials, who call it "the most dastardly crime ever reported to us," are holding the unnamed white man and his daughter on a charge of maiming and disfiguring. Their victim was brought to the Beeville jail where he has been fed, clothed and placed under a doctor's care.

The Negro, who does not know how old he is but who seems to be at least 70, bore evidence of having been frequently beaten. He said an eight foot bull whip was used on him often, and he was assaulted with sticks and stones.

NAME NOT REVEALED

SEP 25 1942

The name of the Negro was not revealed. Sheriff W. J. Corrigan said the victim told him and other officers that he went to work for the white man four years ago on a stock farm. But instead of working for pay, he was made a slave and was never given one penny for his labor. He was threatened with death if he tried to escape.

Tall and gaunt, with tears streaming down his scarred face as he talked, and so weak that he could hardly stand alone, the slave told the sheriff that he slept in a chicken house, made his own pasty cornbread on an outdoor fire, and had no other nourishment except skimmed milk. This had been his diet during the entire four years.

His first request at the jail was for molasses which the ravishly ate. Because of his starved condition, doctors would not let him eat too much at first.

BACK IS SCARRED

When officers found him, he was at work clad in a piece of the same pair of pants he wore when he took the "job" four years before. His back, face and chest were a mass of scars, some on top of each other. His eyelids were so badly cut they would hardly close over his eyes.

The sheriff's office investigated the matter after persistent rumors reached there. When officers went to the house, located several miles from Beeville, the owner was not at home but, his daughter and their slave were at work in the field.

Blood was coming from the slave's mouth, indicating a recent blow, officers declared. The daughter was arrested then and the father was taken into custody when he returned to the house Tuesday night.

An appearance bond of $5,000 was set for the man and $250 for the girl who made bail and was released.

The white man said he beat his slave to make him work and produced the eight foot bull whip with its wooden handle upon the request of officers. He and his daughter, native Texans, have resided in Bee County for several years.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Aged Man Held In Slavery For Four Years

OCT 3 - 1942

Beaten, Starved Forced To Live In Chicken Shack

BEEVILLE, Texas — (ANP) — A story of brutality matched only by that found in "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was unfolded here last Tuesday with the arrest of an elderly white man and his daughter and the "freeing" of a Negro who had been kept in slavery four years.

OCT 3 - 1942

Local law officials, who call it "the most dastardly crime ever reported to us," are holding the unnamed white man and his daughter on a charge of maiming and disfiguring. Their victime was brought to the Beeville jail where he has been fed, clothed and placed under a doctor's care.

The Negro, who does not know how old he is but who seems to be at least 70, bore evidence of having been frequently beaten. He said an eight foot bull whip was used on him often, and he was assaulted with sticks and stones.

The name of the Negro was not revealed. Sheriff W. J. Corrigan said the victim told him and other officers that he went to work for the white man four years ago on a stock farm. But instead of working for pay, he was made a slave and was never given one penny for his labor. He was threatened with death if he tried to escape.

OCT 3 - 1942

IN WEAKENED CONDITION

Tall and gaunt, with tears streaming down his scarred face as he talked, and so weak that he could hardly stand alone, the slave told the sheriff that he slept in a chicken house, made his own pasty cornbread on an outdoor fire, and had no other nourishment except skimmed milk. This had been his diet during the entire four years.

His first request at the jail was for molasses which he ravishly ate. Because of his starved condition, doctors would not let him eat too much at first.

When officers found him, he was at work clad in a piece of the same pair of paints he wore when he took the "job" four years before. His back, face and chest were a mass of scars, some on top of each other. His eyelids were so badly cut they would hardly close over his eyes.

RUMORS REACH SHERIFF

The sheriff's office investigated the matter after persistent rumors reached there. When officers went to the house, located several miles from Beeville, the owner was not at home but his daughter and their slave were at work in the field.

OCT 3 - 1942

Blood was coming from the slave's mouth, indicating a recent blow, officers declared. The daughter was arrested then and the father was taken into custody when he returned to the house Tuesday night.

An appearance bond of $5,000 was set for the man and $250 for the girl who made bail and was released.

The white man said he beat his slave to make him work and produced the eight feet bull whip with its wooden handle upon the request of officers. He and his daughter, native Texans, have resided in Bee county for several years.

35h-1942

Peonage Statue Violated

TYLER.—Atty. Gen. Francis Biddle announces that a Federal Grand Jury sitting in the Eastern District of Texas, at Tyler, today returned an indictment on four counts charging Wallace Adams, of Weldon, Texas, with violation of the Federal anti-peonage statute.

JUL 4 1942

"The Informer"

Adams is charged with "unlawfully. wilfully and feloniously" arresting, causing to be arrested, and returning to and holding in a condition of peonage, a Negro woman, Lonnie McQueen, pending payment of a $30.00 debt.

Penalities under this statute (Title 18, Section 444, U. S. Code) are imprisonment for not more than five years, or a fine of not more than $5,000, or both, on each count.

Houston, Tex.

According to a complaint filed by Lonnie McQueen, she worked 5½ months during 1941 on Adam's farm endeavoring to pay off a $30.00 note made to a local bank and purchased by Adams. On June 18, 1941, the complaint said, she left the farm but was apprehended by the authorities and turned over to Adams, who returned her to the farm. Again on June 26, 1941, she left the Adams' farm and was subsequently charged by him with a theft of less than $5.00. Adams failed to appear at the trial, however, and the case was dropped.

35h

The complaint alleged that during the period of her employment on the Adams' farm she was to be paid $3.00 per week for housework plus 50c per day for working in the garden, these sums to be used in amortizing the note. After 5½ months, however, she still had not "worked off" the $30.00 debt.

JUL 4 1942

The case was handled for the Department of Justice by Steve M. King, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas. The Grand Jury investigation was requested by Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge.

Those who know say this is but an opening wedge into a system of peonage long complained of in East Texas.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Farmer Indicted for Peonage In Detention of Negro Woman

Texan Accused on Four Counts In Holding Worker for $30 Debt

3

WASHINGTON—Attorney General Francis Biddle announced that a Federal Grand Jury sitting in the Eastern District of Texas, at Tyler, on Tuesday returned an indictment on four counts charging Wallace Adams, white, of Weldon, Texas, with violation of the Federal Anti-peonage Statute.

JUL 4 1942

Adams is charged with arresting, and returning to and holding in a condition of peonage, Mrs. Lonnie McQueen, pending payment of a $30 debt.

Note Was Purchased

Penalties under this statute are imprisonment for not more than five years, or a fine of not more than $5,000, or both, on each count.

Mrs. McQueen said she worked five and one-half months during 1941 on Adams' farm endeavoring to pay off a $30 note made to a local bank and purchased by Adams.

On June 18, 1941, the complaint said, she left the farm but was apprehended by the authorities and turned over to Adams, who returned her to the farm. Again on June 26, 1941, she left the Adams' farm and was subsequently charged by him with a theft of less than $5. Adams failed to appear at the trial, however, and the case was dropped.

Investigation Requested

The complaint alleged that during the period of her employment she was to be paid $3 per week for housework plus 50 cents per day for working in the garden, these sums to be used in amortizing the note.. After five and a half months, however, she still had not "worked off" the $30 debt.

JUL 4 1942

The case was handled for the Department of Justice by Steve M. King, U. S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas. The grand jury investigation was requested by Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge.

TEXAS

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

US Indicts Texas Man For Peonage

Atty. Gen. Francis Biddle announces that a federal grand jury in the eastern district of Texas, at Tyler, last week returned an indictment on four counts charging Wallace Adams, of Weldon, Texas, with violation of the federal anti-peonage statute.

JUL 4 1942

Adams is charged with "unlawfully, wilfully and feloniously" arresting, causing to be arrested, and returning to and holding in a condition of peonage, a Negro woman, Lonnie McQueen, pending payment of a $30 debt.

Penalties under this statute are imprisonment for not more than five years, or a fine of not more than $5,000, or both, on each count.

According to a complaint filed by Lonnie McQueen, she worked five and a half months during 1941 on Adams' farm trying to pay off a $30 note made to a local bank and purchased by Adams. On June 18, 1941 the complaint said, she left the farm but was arrested by the authorities and turned over to Adams, who returned her to the farm. Again on June 26, 1941, she left the Adams' farm and was subsequently charged by him with a theft of less than five dollars. Adams failed to appear at the trial, however, and the case was dropped.

35h

The complaint alleged that during the period of her employment on the Adams' farm she was to be paid three dollars a week for housework plus fifty cents a day for working in the garden, these sums to be used in amortizing the note. After five and a half months, however, she still had not "worked off" the debt.

JUL 4 1942

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

FEDERAL JURY INDICTS TEXANS FOR PEONAGE

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 2—A Federal grand jury sitting at Tyler in the Eastern District of Texas, last week returned an indictment on four counts charging Wallace Adams, of Weldon, Tex., with violation of Federal anti-peonage statutes. Announcement of the indictment came from the office of Attorney General Francis Biddle.

35h

Adams is charged with "unlawfully, wilfully and feloniously" arresting, causing to be arrested, and returning to and holding in a condition of peonage, Miss Lonnie McQueen, pending payment of a $30 debt.

This marks the first time the justice department has become active in the nationwide fight to stamp out modern day slavery. If found guilty under the statutes Adams may be imprisoned for not more than five years, or fined not more than $5,000, or both on each of the four counts.

Miss McQueen's complaint states she worked five and one-half months during 1941 on the Adams' plantation to pay off a note made originally to a local bank but later purchased by Adams. At one time she was able to escape from the property, but according to charges filed was arrested by authorities and returned to Adams who in turn re-located her on the peonage farm.

Miss McQueen's petition states further than on June 26, 1941, she again managed to leave the farm and once more was arrested, this time being charged with stealing a sum of less than $5 from Adams. She was discharged, however when her accuser failed to appear and prosecute.

While employed on the farm continues the complaint, Miss McQueen received $3 per week for housework and 50c per day for working the garden. The sums earned under this arrangement were supposed to amortize the loan, according to the charge, but after the five months period she had still not "worked off" the $30 indebtedness.

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

Jail White Texans In Peouage Case

OCT 2 - 1942

Beeville, Texas, (ANP)—"The most dastardly crime ever committed," was the reaction of officers here, where last Tuesday, an unnamed elderly white man and his daughter were jailed for holding in slavery fully four years, an aged Negro, at least 70, who showed evidence of frequent beatings with an eight-inch leader bull-whip and assault with stocks and stones. The Negro has been "freed," fed, clothed, and placed under a doctor's care. All are native Texans.

The aged "hireling," according to information, never received a penny of pay and was threatened with death if he attempted escape. He told Sheriff W. J. Corrigan he slept in the chicken house, made his own pastry cornbread, which, with skimmed milk, was his only food. Tall and gaunt, he could hardly stand when rescued. Tears streamed down his face as he talked.

OCT 2 - 1942

The white father, held on $5,000 bond, and his daughter, released on a $250 bond, were both charged with "maiming and disfiguring." He produced the bull-whip on officer's request, said it made slave-work faster.

Daily World
Atlanta. Ga.

Justice Dep't To Prosecute Town Marshal

OCT 25 1942

Defendants Face $5,000 Fine, Five Years In Prison

WASHINGTON, D. C. —(SNS) Attorney General Francis Biddle announced Saturday that a Federal Grand Jury sitting in the Eastern District of Texas, at Tyler, on October 6, 1942, returned an indictment in two counts charging Wylie Page, Longview, Texas, and C. M. Weaver, Town Marshal, Hawkins, Texas, with violation of the Federal Anti-Peonage Statute.

Page and Weaver are charged with "unlawfully, willfully, and feloniously arresting, causing to be arrested, and holding in a condition of peonage, a Negro, Robert Carraway, pending payment of a a $53 debt.

Penalties under this statute (Title 18, Section 444, United States Code,) are imprisonment for not more than five years, or a fine of not more than $5,000.00, or both, on each count.

The investigation was originally commenced upon information furnished by a white citizen of Dallas, Texas.

OCT 25 1942

According to the statement of the alleged victim, he had worked on Page's farm near Long View, Texas for more than four years. Finding himself, as he thought, free of debt to Page, he went to Dallas, although he was forced to sneak away from Page's construction camp at Hawkins, Texas, 'for fear that he would beat me and carry me back to the farm."

Shortly thereafter, it was said, Page induced Weaver, the Hawkins town marshal, to have Carraway arrested on a false charge, removed from Dallas to Hawkins, and taken to Page's office there. After Carraway had been beaten by Page, Page charged Carraway with owing him $13.00 plus $50.00 for Weaver's expenses, and ordered him back to Page's farm to work until the debt was paid. After three weeks, Carraway again escaped.

OCT 25 1942

This case is a continuation of the determined policy of the Department of Justice to thoroughly investigate and vigorously prosecute all complaints involving peonage and involuntary servitude.

The case was handled for the Department of Justice by Steve M King, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas. The Grand Jury investigation was requested by Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge.

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

US Indicts Two Texans For Peonage

OCT 31 1942

WASHINGTON. – Atty. Gen Francis Biddle has announced that a federal grand jury in the eastern district of Texas, at Tyler, on October 6, returned an indictment in two counts charging Wylie Page, Longview, Tex., and C. M. Weaver, town marshal of Hawkins, Tex., with violation of the Federal Anti-Peonage Statute.

Page and Weaver are charged with "unlawfully, willfully and feloniously" arresting, causing to be arrested and holding in a condition of peonage a Negro, Robert Carraway, pending payment of a $63 debt.

Penalties under this statute (title 18, section 444, USCode) are imprisonment for not more than five years, or a fine of not more than $5,000, or both, on each count.

The investigation originally started after information furnished by a white citizen of Dallas, Tex. According to the statement of the alleged victim, he had worked on Page's farm near Longview for more than four years. Finding himself, as he thought, free of debt to Page, he went to Dallas, altho he was forced to sneak away from Page's construction camp at Hawkins "for fear that he would beat me and carry me back to the farm."

Shortly, thereafter, it was said, Page induced Weaver, the Hawkins town marshal, to have Carraway arrested on a false charge, removed from Dallas to Hawkins and taken to Page's office there. After Carraway had been beaten by Page, Page charged Caraway with owing him $13 plus $50 for Weaver's expenses and ordered him back to Page's farm to work until the debt was paid. After three weeks Carraway again escaped.

OCT 31 1942

The case was handled for the Department of Justice by Steve M. King, US attorney for the eastern district of Texas. Grand jury investigation was requested by Assistant Atty. Gen. Wendell Berge

---

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

Texan and Daughter Deny Peonage Charge

12/5/42

The Department of Justice announced this week that pleas of not guilty were entered by Alex Skrobarczyk and his daughter, Susie, of Beeville, Texas, Mondy, when arraigned at Corpus Christie, Texas, on charge of violating the Federal anti-peonage statutes.

The Skrobarczyks were indicted by a Federal Grand Jury at Laredo, Texas, on November 9, 1942, on charges of holding a Negro, Alfred Irving, in a condition of peonage and slavery for a period of four years to work out a pretended debt.

According to the indictment, the Skrobarczyks paid Irving $4.65 monthly in addition to $12.50 for food and clothing during the four-year period.

Ran Away Twice, Returning

At the time of the defendants' arrest, Irving was found in a badly undernurished condition, bleeding at the mouth, and with his body, face and arms covered with fresh cuts as well as old scars. He testified that on various occasions he had been beaten with a "whip, rope, chain and plank." Twice when he ran away from the Skrobarczyks' farm, Irving claimed, he was returned by the defendants to involuntary servitude.

12/5/42

The Skrobarczyks were indicted under Section 443 and 444, which carry a maximum penalty Title 18, U.S. Code, both of of 5 years imprisonment, or a $5000 fine, or both.

The grand jury investigation, requested by Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge, was in charge of the Criminal Division following the return of a no-bil by a State grand jury, was directed by U.S. Attorney Douglas McGregor.

35h-1942

TEXAS

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Plead Not Guilty of Peonage

U. S. Accuses Texas Farmer of Holding Man a Prisoner

12/4/42

WASHINGTON. — The department of justice announced this week that pleas of not guilty were entered by Alex Skrobarczyk and his daughter Susie of Beeville, Texas, Monday when they were arraigned at Corpus Christie, Texas, on charges of violating the federal anti-peonage statutes.

The Skrobarczyks were indicted by a federal grand jury at Laredo, Texas, on November 9, on charges of holding a Negro, Alfred Irving, in a condition of peonage and slavery for a period of four years to work out a pretended debt.

35h

According to the indictment, the Skrobarczyks paid Irving $4.65 monthly in addition to $12.50 for food and clothing during the four-year period.

At the time of the defendants' arrest, Irving was found in a badly undernourished condition, bleeding at the mouth, and with his body, face and arms covered with fresh cuts as well as old scars.

He testified that on various occasions he had been beaten with a "whip, rope, chain and plank." Twice when he ran away from the Skrobarczkys farm, Irving claimed, he was returned by the defendants to involuntary servitude.

The Skrobarczyks were indicted under Section 443 and 444, Title 18, U. S. Code, both of which carry a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment, or a $5,000 fine, or both.

12/4/42

The grand jury investigation, requested by Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge, in charge of the Criminal Division, following the return of a no-bill by a state grand jury, was directed by U. S. Attorney Douglas McGregor.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

PEONAGE CHARGES DENIED BY TEXANS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

The Department of Justice announced this week that pleas of not guilty were entered by Alex Skrobarczyk and his daughter, Susue, of Beeville, Texas, Saturday when they were arraigned at Corpus Christie, Texas on charges of violating the anti-peonage status.

35h
Texas

The Skrobarczyks were indicted by a Federal Grand Jury at Laredo, Texas on November 9, 1942 on charges of holding a Negro, Alfred Irving, in a condition of peonage and slavery for a period of four years to work out a pretended debt.

According to the indictment, the Skrobarczyks paid Irving $4.65 monthly in addition to $12.50 for food and clothing during the four-year period. Nov. 29, 1942

At the time of the defendant's arrest, Irving was found in a badly undernourished condition, bleeding at the mouth, and with his body, face and arms covered with fresh cuts as well as old scars. He testified that on various occasions he had been beaten with a "whip, rope, chain and plank. Twice when he ran away from the Skrobarczks farm, Irving claimed, he was returned by the defendants to involuntary servitude. Nov. 29, 1942

The Skrobarczyks were indicted under Section 443 and 444, Title 18, U. S. Code, both of which carry a maximum penalty of 5 years imprisonment, or a $5,000 fine or both.

35h

The Grand Jury investigation, requested by Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge, in charge of the criminal Division, following the return of a no-bill by a State grand jury, was directed by U. S. Attorney Douglas McGregor.

351-1942

ALABAMA

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Ala. Unionists Resolve To Hit Discrimination

FEB 3 - 1942

Resolution Is Signed by Mobile Trade Council

FEB 3 - 1942

CHICAGO—The Mobile, Alabama Central Trades Council of the A. F of L. expressed a forthright position on the Negro in the following resolution sent to M. P. Webster, First International Vice-President of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and member of the President's Fair Employment Practice Committee. This resolution is all the more important since it was framed and adopted in Mobile, Alabama.

It reads as follows:

"Be it Further Resolved, That the Central Trades Council go on record as being in full accord and support of a training program for Negro workers, in order that their skill be best applied to the services of the Nation in this time of crisis and that the Council stand ready to offer its personnel as instructors to the end that they be trained by the most highly skilled in the various trades encompassed by the Defense Program; and

FEB 3 - 1942

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Council use every effort within its means to eliminate any discrimination which may exist toward any race, creed, color or person of national origin other than American; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Central Trades Council do go on record as bitterly condemning any wage differential which may exist because of race, creed, color or national origin and that the

---

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Birmingham Negro and White Workers Rebuff Attempts to Disrupt Unity

MAR 8 - 1942

MAR 8 - 1942

MAR 8 - 1942

By Rob. F. Hall
(Special to the Sunday Worker)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., March 7.—The past two weeks, which have seen a number of new crimes committed against the Negro people, and therefore against national unity, have also seen new, effective counter steps taken by the Negro people and progressive whites.

These counter steps have consisted of sharp condemnation of these attacks on the Negro people and of new pledges of intensified efforts to defeat Hitler and smash the Axis.

The most significant of such steps was the release of the call to the fifth All - Southern Negro Youth Congress, to be held at Tuskegee Institute April 17 through 19.

"On all the ramparts of our far-flung battle lines, America's youth offer their lives that our nation may live," declares the call. "They die that we may preserve, in the face of brutish attacks of German, Italian and Japanese fascism, the heritage of social progress and human advancement bequeathed by the Declaration of Independence, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution. . . . The Conference will convene to determine how Negro youth can more fully share in these tasks, how they can in larger measure contribute to the winning of the war."

MAR 8 - 1942

PROTEST BEATING

Progressive organizations and individuals are invited to write directly to the SNYC, 514 Masonic Temple Building, Birmingham, for copies of the call.

Another significant event was the splendid unity which developed among Negro and white workers in the Bessemer area around the brutal beating of a Negro draftee, a member of Raymond local of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Union by a police officer. Following the action of a number of union locals in condemnation of this instance of police brutality, the Red Ore Council of the union adopted a resolution addressed to Major Ben F. Smith, chairman of the State Selective Service Board, demanding that the guilty police officer be punished. Major Smith responded in a letter promising an immediate investigation and pledging that justice would be done.

Alton Lawrence, International Representative of the union, wired President Roosevelt in connection with the case and received a telegram from the assistant attorney general in behalf of the President promising action. In a meeting of CIO organizers in the Birmingham area, the case was discussed by many CIO leaders, including William Mitch, who stated that labor must recognize its obligation to fight for the rights of the Negro people.

MAR 8 - 1942

ACT ON SHOOTING

A third development is the broad movement demanding the conviction of Romayne Wharton, white drug store operator, who fired five shots into the body of George Lindsay, a Negro worker who argued with him about a matter of five cents charge. A neighborhood meeting called immediately after the shooting resulted in a citizens committee which swore out a warrant charging Wharton with attempt to murder and assault with a deadly weapon. Wharton promptly sold his drug store and quitted the neighborhood, and is at present out on bond awaiting trial.

The citizens committee held a successful mass meeting last Sunday in the auditorium of the Smithfield Court housing project. It was addressed by a number of influential Negroes. Mr. Robert Durr, editor of the Weekly Review, utilized the platform to make a nationalist appeal to the Negro people to boycott all "white and Italian stores." But this appeal was answered in effect in the speeches of both Miss Esther Cooper, administrative secretary of the SNYC, and Hosie Hudson, chairman of the citizens committee.

MAR 8 - 1942

The latter speakers pointed out the necessity of Negro-white unity to defeat police brutality. Mr. Hudson showed that such cases of brutality against the Negro people were direct blows against national unity. "National unity is the main concern of all Americans today. It is necessary if we are going to crush Hitler. Let us call on the Negro people to organize and throw their full weight into the national effort to destroy Hitlerism abroad and at home."

RETAIN ATTORNEY

The citizens' committee has retained Attorney Arthur D. Shores to assist in the prosecution of the druggist, and is raising funds to defray the cost of the case.

And its about the person of Mr Shores that much interest has centered this week. A life-long Democrat and president of the Negro Democratic Council, Mr. Shores filed his papers last week to enter the Democratic primary as candidate for state legislature. His papers and filing fee were at first accepted But 24 hours later they were returned by Gessner T. McCorvey of Mobile, state Democratic committee chairman, who cited a recent resolution of the committee making the primaries exclusively white.

A number of white progressives as well as Negroes have offered Mr Shores support to carry this case to federal courts where it is taken for granted that the unconstitutionality of McCorvey's actions will be recognized. Mr. Shores has not yet determined what course he will pursue.

MAR 8 - 1942

It is undoubtedly true that the Southern Negro Youth Conference being held at this time will give the sharpest and most cogent expression to the demands of the Negro people for the elimination of such attacks as barriers to the fullest participation of the Negro people in the war effort. These demands are already finding considerable support among white Southerners who recognize the defeat of the Axis as the major problem of the people and who realize that discrimination against the Negro people is playing Hitler's game.

MAR 8 - 1942

Full support to the building of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, and full support to every move to remove discriminatory bars against the Negro people, must be seen, therefore, as the obligation of every patriotic Southerner, Negro or white, and their organizations.

A. F. OF L. SEEKS TO AID NEGROES

24 1942

End Of Discrimination Is Demanded; Roper Again State President

[redacted]

A strong stand against discrimination against Negroes in war vocational training and war jobs was taken by the Alabama Federation of Labor today as its 41st annual convention came to a close here.

Sam E. Roper, of Sheffield, was re-elected president. He was opposed by Hugh Brown, head of the electrical workers local in Birmingham. W. O. Hare was re-elected secretary for the 11th consecutive year.

In its closing session the federation adopted resolutions calling for:

Resolutions Adopted

APR 23 1942

The abolishment of the poll tax.

Support of the sexen-point program of the Birmingham Federation of Teachers and the Alabama Educational Assn.

Passage by Congress of the vocational aid bill.

Federal aid to the schools so that equal educational opportunities may be provided.

Employment of persons on war projects at Childersburg and Talladega, regardless of physical infirmities or age, if "they can do the job."

Campaign Advocated

A campaign to organize office workers.

Birmingham Ala.

Cessation of discrimination against Nebroes in labor circles and labor crafts.

APR 23 1942

Support of the legislative program of journeymen barbers. ;

Creation of Negro unemployment

Registration for rationing cards will be conducted on May 12, 13 and 14 by local rationing boards which have handled the rationing of cars, tires and sugar.

Will Issue Ration Cards

Five types of ration cards will be issued. Card "A" will be given to the average motorist upon presentationtion of his owner's registration card. He will then receive a ration book which will permit him to buy seven units of gasoline. The OPA said that any or all of the units may be bought at any time or in small quantities.

The value of units probably will be shifted according to such developments as the shipping situation. It may be four gallons one month

in the payment of overtime on a forty-hour week in their contracts and then sought to kill the 40-hour week so that their profits would be increased as the "real sixth-columnists."

Pegler Assailed

He denounced Columnist Westbrook Pegler as "evil-minded," and said Pegler was the "builder" of the sixth column movement in this country.

"Pegler is always calling us racketeers," cried Mr. Turner. "Well, I would like to see Mr. Pegler call me that to my face."

District vice presidents chosen were:

APR 23 1942

Vice Presidents Named

John L. Busby ,Birmingham district; R. M. Lanier, Sheffield; Walter F. Schaeffer. Mobile; Thomas Adair, Tuscaloosa; R. R. Wade, Montgomery; L. J. Dugas. Anniston; J. S. Busby, Jasper; W. O. Benning, Huntsville.

Mrs. Will Densmore, Birmingham and Mrs. Ida Lee Merchant, Mobile, were elected women vice presidents at large. R. F. Finkey, Mobile, and James Hampton, Cheffield, were chosen Negro vice presidents-at-large.

Ted Williams, Birmingham, was chosen to be the delegate to the International A. F. of L. convention.

Birmingham Ala News
April 19, 1942

Three-Day Meeting Opens Here Monday; About 600 Expected

Several High-Ranking National Officers To Speak During Sessions

The 41st convention of the Alabama State Federation of Labor will open at the Thomas Jefferson Hotel Monday with an address of welcome by Mayor W. Cooper Green.

Approximately 600 delegates representing affiliated local unions throughout the state are expected.

Reports Sunday indicate the convention will be, from many viewpoints, the most important the state organization has ever held, particularly in view of world conditions and the forthcoming May primary which is expected to result in a liberal sprinkling of state politics throughout the three-day meeting despite announced intention of federation officers to keep the convention as free as possible from political issues.

The convention is expected to take a determined stand in favor of retention of labor's basic gains, and will roundly score newspaper columnists, radio commentators and others for recent so-called anti-labor expressions.

As far as politics within the convention itself is concerned, little talk has gone the rounds to indicate formidable opposition to the present officers, although there are reports certain factions may attempt to place their own candidates in the president's and secretary's offices.

Several prominent speakers will appear on the program, including Frank Fenton, director of organization for the American Federation of Labor; Joseph A. Padaway, general counsel, and George Googe, Southern representative.

Also expected are George Storm, international representative, United Association of Plumbers; G. X. Barker, vice president, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; Alex McDonald, international representative of the Operating Engineers; Robert Weyler, international representative, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners; G. M. Freeman, secretary, Tennessee Valley Trades & Labor Council; Stanley Rounds, international representative of the Structural Iron Workers, and others.

The convention's annual banquet will be held at the Thomas Jefferson Hotel Monday night with another imposing array of speakers, while a dance will follow Tuesday night. Separate entertainment is being prepared for the Negro delegates, Sam E. Roper, president of the federation, announced Saturday.

J. A. Jackson, president of Local 236, Motion Picture Machine Operators, and president of Birmingham Trades Council, will officially open the convention on behalf of the council, host to the gathering this year.

Mobile Ala., Register
May 21, 1942

Colored Longshoremen Buy $750 War Bonds

Colored members of the International Longshoremen's Union, Local 1410, have purchased $750 in war bonds, it was announced yesterday by Cleveland Wolf, president, and George McCants, financial secretary.

Birmingham Post
Birmingham, Alabama

LABOR ROW FLARES AT HOLT FOUNDRY

JUN 1 1942

HOLT, June 1.—(Special)—William H. Ivey, state labor commissioner, and several highway patrolmen weer here today after "labor trouble" broke out at the Central Foundry Co.

Mr. Ivey said that he had come down at [illegible] invitation of county officails to attempt to straighten the matter out. He [illegible] that several weeks ago the company had signed a contract with the American Federation of Labor and that employes affiliated with the Congress for Industrial Organizations were refusing to come to work.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

White Postmen Receive Charter

JUN 30 1942

White letter carriers of Montgomery postoffice have received a charter in the National Association of Letter Carriers, it was announced Monday. Officers of the new unit, designated as Branch 3832, are as follows: P. H. Pilgreen, president; Otis C. West, vice-president; Robert H. Bourne, secretary; H. E. H. Turner, treasurer, and L. H. Shirley, sergeant-at-arms.

331

It was announced that meetings of the group would be held the first Tuesday night of each month in Room 432, postoffice building.

Colored carriers here have been organized for some time. It was announced that issuance of the second charter, to white carriers, came after five years' effort on their part, and after the last convention of the National Association of Letter Carriers had amended its constitution to provide for granting of dual charters.

JUN 30 1942

"The carriers pledge to the public and officials of this office their best efforts in keeping the Montgomery office in the 95 per cent plus grade, one of the highest in the United States," President Pilgreen said in expressing gratification over receipt of the charter.

William Mitch Says He Nas Done Most For Negroes

"The Weekly Review"

JUL 4 1942

In a letter-article published June 18 in the Union News (Jasper, Ala.) William Mitch takes John P. Davis, secretary of the National Negro Congress, to task for an advertisement carried in the Washington Post and the Chicago Defender naming "John L. Lewis, Westbrook Pegler and Norman Thomas as defeatist enemies of the Negro people who are disrupting national unity. Mr. Mitch expressed surprise that Mr. Davis would so brand and link Mr. Lewis, "whom he calls the outstanding defender of the Negro" and pointed out that he, Mitch, has "taken particular pride in reaching out to help the Negro, disregarding the barriers and prejudices against the Negro." He added: "I feel that I have done more to help the Negro in the south than any other individual in the south."

Birmingham, Ala

JUL 4 1942

351-1942
Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

UNION BARS MUSICIANS

Powerful AFM Jim Crows Negroes Out of Top Jobs

JUL 3 1942

NEW YORK — Although the Columbia Broadcasting System, the National Broadcasting Company and the Blue Network are now hiring Negro musicians for regular jobs in their New York stations, the American Federation of Musicians lily-white locals in key cities outside New York bar Negro musicians from certain jobs. The NAACP learned this week that the AFM'S jim-crow locals may be in violation of the President's Executive Order, 8802 banning discrimination in labor unions.

Chicago local 10, for example, is all-white, and has an exclusive contract with radio stations there to supply musicians for regular jobs. Negroes in the jim-crow local are not called except for fill-in work, the NAACP said.

Among those who spoke out are Glenn Miller, Jimmy Dorsey, Claude Thornhill, Emery Deutsch, Shep Fields, Woody Herman, Count Basie, Abe Lyman, Hal McIntyre and Zutty Singleton.

They declared that jim-crow locals are not satisfactory and are unprofitable to Negro musicians. Chief evils of the separate system are unequal wage scales, virtual shut-outs of Negro bands from radio stations, theatres, and high-paying spots over which white locals have jurisdiction, and a generally lower economic standard among musicians.

The AFM has 135,000 members throughout the country, many of whom are colored. Segregated locals are the rule in most large cities, except New York.

Typical of the opinions of band leaders is that of Glenn Miller: "Now when we are fighting Hitler because he insists on racial prejudice, is the time for our country to show its democratic hand.

Abe Lyman, in demand for his "sweet" music stated: "It's a hell of a situation. Thousands of colored soldiers are fighting battles to save us at home. It's a rotten unfair situation to segregate the Negro in or out of the music business."

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS
Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

Musicians' Union to Oust Undemocratic James Crow

JUL 11 1942

NEW YORK — A campaign against the Jim Crow policies of the American Federation of Musicians (AFM) has been started. In more than 70 cities, the AFM segregates Negro musicians into all-Negro locals despite the existence in those cities of white locals, *Music and Rhythm*, swing music monthly, pointed out in its July issue, published this week.

Music and Rhythm, published by John Henry Hammond, Jr., is the same paper which successfully campaigned to get NBC and CBS to discontinue their practice of barring Negro musicians from their staff orchestras. Both chains are putting Negro players to work this or next week.

Music and Rhythm raised the question: *Must There Be Segregation in the Union?* Under that heading, the magazine presented a symposium expressing the views of more than a dozen of swing music's leading conductors, all of whom went on record against segregation.

351- 1942

AFL

P.M. Daily N.Y., N.Y.

AFL's Green Rejects Lewis's Peace Plan; Negro Delegates Push Fight on Jim Crowism

'No Place' for UMW or Its Leader in Peace Talks

OCT 1 2 1942

By JAMES A. WECHSLER

Staff Correspondent

TORONTO, Oct. 12.—As far as AFL President William Green is concerned, John L. Lewis is neither wanted nor welcome at the coming AFL-CIO unity conferences.

Green bluntly declared last night that there is "no place" for the United Mine Workers or its leader in the peace talks, as a result of the UMW's withdrawal from the CIO. He said that Lewis's presence could only "increase the difficulties" of the negotiators.

At the same time the AFL chief rejected the idea that the AFL-CIO meetings should be replaced by a "general labor conference," including all unaffiliated unions, as well as units of the two national organizations. He said he didn't believe FDR would initiate such conference.

OCT 1 2 1942

Green's comments were provoked by Lewis's pronouncements Saturday in Cincinnati. In a press conference, the mine union president derided the AFL-CIO unity moves, made clear that no meetings could be meaningful without his presence, blasted Brother Green on a variety of counts, and approved a reporter's suggestion that President Roosevelt call a larger labor meeting, at which the UMW, the typographical unions, the railroad brotherhoods, and the other independent bodies would be present.

"In my opinion, President Roosevelt would *not* care to call such conference," Green said.

OCT 1 2 1942

Leaves Door Open

In spurning Lewis's blueprint for one big labor family, Green left the door open, however, for a "separate peace" between the AFL and the mine workers' union. He reiterated the stand he took earlier in the week—that the AFL would do business with anybody.

While Green refused to comment directly on Lewis's attacks on him, the AFL head interpreted Lewis's declarations as evidence that the UMW President wasn't breaking down the doors to get back into the AFL. With regard to Lewis's withdrawal from the CIO, Green observed briefly: "He seems to have the happy faculty of destroying the things he creates."

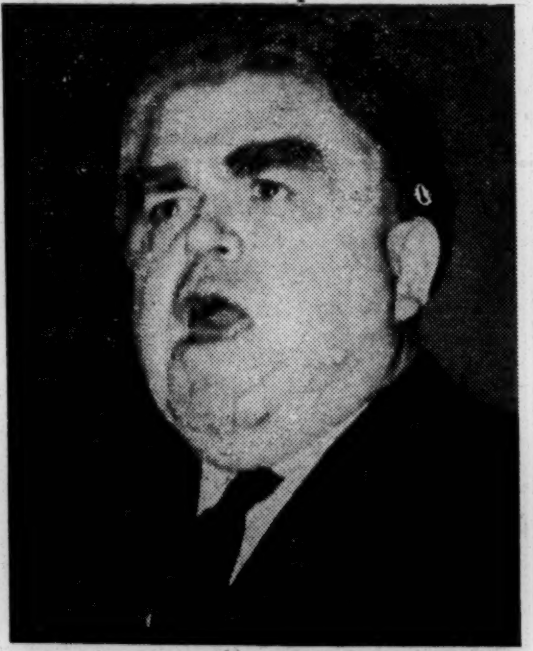
The exchange enlivened the week end recess of the AFL convention sessions, and it also projected again the issue of whether Green's word is AFL law, or whether Lewis might still seek to stage a backroom coup in co-operation with other AFL higher-ups.

Tobin Echoes Green

Speculation centered chiefly on the role that William L. Hutcheson, czar of the AFL Carpenters' Union and a controlling figure in the executive council, might play in any coming Lewis manoeuvers. Hutcheson, who shares Lewis's Republican politics, is a member of the AFL "peace committee," scheduled to open talks with the CIO next month. His secretary said last night that he couldn't be reached for comment.

OCT 1 2 1942

The two other members of the negotiating body—Daniel J. Tobin, president of the Teamsters' Union, and Harry C. Bates, head of the Bricklayers — generally echoed Green's comments. Tobin said Lewis could not attend the AFL-CIO talks "unless the CIO wanted him" and expressed doubt that FDR would summon an over-all labor conference.



John L. Lewis: the AFL wants no part of him at the coming labor peace talks, either.

OCT 1 2 1942

OCT 1 2 1942

As for Lewis's demand that Green get out of the way before the miners return to the AFL, Tobin said:

"I don't think we can accommodate him. It's not fair for him to set conditions, anyway. But Lewis has said a lot of things in the past—such as his statements that he never would leave the CIO."

Bates also declared "that the miners are not included in the AFL-CIO conferences, but emphasized that "if the miners want to come back, we'd deal separately with them, as with other unions, like the typographers."

So on the surface today Lewis faced this Hobson's choice—speedy, inelegant return to the AFL or a lone role during the AFL-CIO parleys. It is considered certain that FDR won't rescue him by summoning a labor show at which the miners' leader could perform. But don't count Lewis out of the AFL picture so long as Brother Hutcheson is around.

Machinery to Deal With Discrimination Is Demanded

PM New York N.Y.

Staff Correspondent

TORONTO, Oct. 12.—Two lone Negro delegates to the American Federation of Labor convention were preparing today for the annual convention battle over union discrimination against Negroes.

The fight was expected to come, as it has in the past, over resolutions sponsored by A. Phillip Randolph and Milton P. Webster representing the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. With the convention oratory over and resolutions slated to occupy the delegates throughout the rest of the week, the discrimination issues was expected to reach the floor either late today or tomorrow.

OCT 1 2 1942

There was no indication yet that the conflict would end on a different note than at previous conventions—support of resolutions condemning discrimination in general, but refusal to set up machinery to deal with specific cases in individual AFL unions.

The Negro delegates are seeking creation of an AFL minorities committee "to investigate various forms and cases of discrimination that may be presented to it." Its jurisdiction would cover any examples of anti-Catholic or anti-Semitic prejudice in AFL unions as well as Jim Crowism. Past conventions have pigeonholed this resolution.

Randolph said last night that the most serious offenders were the machinists' and the boilermakers' unions. It was the boilermakers' union that was involved in the recent dispute at the Kaiser Shipyard.

'Some Progress' Admitted

While "some progress has been made in the past year" as a result of the "pressure" of the Fair Employment Practice Committee (FEPC), Randolph declared the situation was far from remedied. AFL president William Green is a member of the FEPC and has pleaded hard for abandonment of anti-Negro bans by all AFL unions. He steadily has refused to challenge the autonomy of individual unions, however.

It was reported that the resolutions committee already has voted to submit a declaration denouncing discrimination, but ignoring Randolph's demand for a special committee to act on the problem. This sidestep will meet strong resistance from Randolph and Webster, but whether any AFL higherups will come to their defense remains highly problematical.

There are a lot of AFL leaders who share Green's unhappiness on the matter, resent Jim Crow statutes, and feel that the AFL as a whole is suffering for a few individual sins. But they don't like to fight about it.

Apart from the Negro debate, no major conflict over resolutions on public policy is anticipated. There may be a sharp fight, however, over the long-standing jurisdictional dispute between the carpenters and the machinists—unless the executive counsels succeeds in keeping it off the floor. It all goes back to 1914.

NAACP Hits AFL Bars at Kaiser

Daily Worker
N.Y., N.Y.

OCT 6 - 1942

Refusal of AFL union agents to permit 30 Negro workers imported to Oregon this week by the Kaiser Shipyards to sign up as anything but painters' helpers and laborers, aids the Axis, the NAACP declared yesterday in a wire to William Green, at AFL convention in Toronto, Canada.

"National Association for Advancement of Colored People express hope that convention of American Federation of Labor will unequivocally condemn attitude taken by Local 72 of AFL Metal Trades Department of Portland, Oregon, and of Tom Ray, its secretary, who attempted to prevent Negro workers for Kaiser's shipyard from working except as painters helpers and laborers," the wire read. "We ask American Federation of Labor to go further and not only condemn color bars in all AFL unions where they exist but to take unequivocal and concrete action to eliminate such restrictions on pain of expulsion from the American Federation of Labor. Any action short of this would stultify American Federation of Labor both with respect to its asking privileges and immunities for white workers while denying them to Negro workers and also because barring needed workers from war industries directly contributes to Axis victory, which would lead to enslavement of all workers."

OCT 6 - 1942

Learning that Mrs. Anna Rosenberg, Regional Director of the New York War Manpower Commission, had at first refused to fill the Kaiser order because of the unions anti-Negro stand and had taken the order only when she was informed that the barrier had been removed, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People commended Mrs. Rosenberg on her forthright action against labor union discrimination and expressed the hope that other officials will follow her example.

OCT 6 - 1942

Along with 460 white workers, the 30 Negro workers arrived at the Henry J. Kaiser shipyards on Oct. 1. The union representatives boarded the special train on which there had been no segregation and reclassified the white workers without experience as helpers in the various crafts. Many of the white men on the train were without previous mechanical experience. Of the 30 Negroes at least 19 could qualify as boiler makers helpers on the basis of actual experience, and five already held union cards with affiliated AFL locals, but the Negroes were allowed to sign up only as painter's helpers at 95 cents an hour or as laborers at 85 cents an hour. At first the Negroes refused to sign up. but later all but one signed as helpers or laborers. Marion Hill. the Negro who refused to sign. returned to New York. He was given a return ticket and $10 for expenses by the general manager of the Kaiser yards.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

Union Ban Against Skilled Jobs Lifted

OCT 17 1942

By ERWIN VAN SWOL

NEW YORK. — Colored men once again have been promised equal job and promotion opportunities henceforth in the Kaiser West Coast shipyards.

The question of discrimination has been settled, Mrs. Anna M. Rosenberg, regional director of the War Man Power Commission (WMPC), announced Wednesday, after a conference with Kaiser officials and representatives of Local 72, Boilermakers, Iron Shipbuilders, Welders and Helpers, AFL.

That's good news for fifty colored men hired through the U.S. Employment Service (USES) here, who had said they would come back to New York unless the ban that gave them only jobs as laborers and painters was lifted. Some of them are skilled welders and boilermakers.

OCT 17 1942

Membership Not Promised

Whether they will be admitted to membership in Local 72 still is a question, however. Decision is up to Tom Ray, secretary of the local. He and James Gehrig, the local's business manager, flew here at Mrs. Rosenberg's request.

Others in the conference were Edgar Kaiser, son of Henry J. Kaiser; Harry Morton, counsel for the Kaiser Company, and Todd Woodell, assistant to Henry J. Kaiser.

"All problems have been ironed out," Mrs. Rosenberg said, "and all workers recruited here (by the USES) will work in any occupation in the Kaiser yards and with equal opportunities for training for better positions, upgrading within the job, and other promotional opportunities."

Praises Ray

She went out of her way to praise Ray for his co-operation, saying:

OCT 17 1942

"I want to express my appreciation to Mr. Ray for his splendid help and co-operation in straightening out the problems in connection with this recruitment.

"He came in from Portland to discuss these matters fully and he has shown that he is anxious to do everything in his power to get as many men as possible on the Kaiser production lines for the war effort."

USES officials here quoted Ray as saying:

"I worked and was active in labor circles in New York. I know New York and its problems."

Lasting Ban Pledged

On the West Coast, Ray previously had said that he would not take colored men into his local, preferring to surrender its books first.

OCT 17 1942

Kaiser officials said that 600 of the 67,000 workers now in the West Coast yards were colored and that there never had been any friction.

Here are some of the behind-the-scene factors in the situation:

The Kaiser yards are headed for a terrific expansion program in which the number of workers will almost double. If it occurs, it means a corresponding increase in dues-paying members for Local 72, already one of the richest and most powerful unions in the country.

Contracts Threatened

Continuation of discrimination against colored workers would have stopped the USES from hiring other New Yorkers for Kaiser. The Mahoney Act prohibits discrimination in hiring for firms doing war work.

If the government decided to get tough about the discrimination, the WMPC could abrogate the contract existing between Local 72 and Kaiser's.

Local 72 got no support in its biased attitude from the national AFL or enlightened locals that oppose discrimination.

Chinese, Filipinos Barred

Local 72 has barred not only colored men, but Chinese and Filipinos from membership. That gave rise to a pointed query this week in the Shipbuilder, union newspaper. Reporting that the Chinese and Filipinos are able to buy an $18.75 war bond a week, it asked:

OCT 17 1942

"How about Tom Ray doing something about an auxiliary or something for these guys? Why let them work and get the same benefits as us guys who pay dues and initiation fees, and yet they don't pay anything into the organization?"

At the AFL convention in Toronto, a spokesman for J. A. Franklin, president of the AFL Boilermakers' Union, said the issue of union discrimination against colored men in the Kaiser shipyards had been "amicably adjusted."

Green also said that so far as he knew the dispute had been settled.

Kaiser Rapped For AFL Ties

P.M. Daily
N.Y., N.Y.

OCT 19 1942

PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, Oct. 19. — Accusing Henry Kaiser of signing a "collusive closed shop contract" with the AFL, Philip Van Gelder, secretary of the CIO's International Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers today demanded that the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) take action immediately against the West Coast shipbuilder.

A letter from Van Gelder to the NLRB embodying these charges and demands was made public by the CIO *News*. It accused the Board of delaying release of the formal complaint, called this "a grievous error," and asked for prompt hearing of the case.

Van Gelder asserted that "it is high time that the Kaiser interests and the AFL Metal Trades Department were brought to book for their flagrant and high-handed violations of the Wagner Act." He said that the "high dues and initiation fees" collected by the AFL union had impaired morale at the Kaiser yard and denounced "discrimination against Negroes" practiced by "a small-scale AFL business agent."

OCT 19 1942

The CIO official said that the AFL had been chosen as bargaining agent at a time when Kaiser employed only 66 men and that the remainder of the 70,000 workers now in the yard had no chance to approve the closed shop agreement signed in 1941 with the Federation's Metal Trades Department.

(PM reporter Arnold Beichman, who recently worked at the Kaiser shipyard, reports that some of the men do gripe about the dues and initiation fees they are forced to pay, but he says they are men who simply don't want to belong to any union, and the entrance of the CIO, therefore, wouldn't necessarily improve their morale. He says Kaiser was forced to deal with the AFL, because in Portland the CIO is uninfluential and insignificant. The "small-scale AFL business agent" to whom Van Gelder refers, is Tom Ray, secretary-treasurer of Local 72 of the Boilermakers' Union, who, though bitterly anti-Negro, is unfortunately not small-scale, but a powerful AFL official. Beichman found that a lot of the anti-union feeling among Easterners exists because of Local 72's discrimination against Negroes.)

351-1942

A.F.L.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

PAINTERS ARE DENIED AFL MEMBERSHIP

JAN 17 1942

No Headway Gained In Spite Of Appeals To FEPC, Union Heads

OMAHA, Neb.—A distressing condition was reported this week by the Painters' division of the Northside Building and Trade Council.

For a period of two years or more, the Negro painters of Omaha have sought to gain admission either into a local union or to be granted a charter through the executive painters council here. Despite all efforts, which included conferences with the international organizer, Joseph L. Gross, letters to President William L. Green of the A. F. of L. communication to President L. P. Lindelof of the International Painters and Decorators Union of America, both requests have been denied.

During recent months in an exchange of letters and telegram with the OPM and the Fair Employment Committee, the painters have solicited their attention to the extent that they have sent Theodore R. Poston, public relation councellor, Earl B. Dickerson and the latest, Mr. Donoran, to investigate. The matter has also been brought to the attention of A. Phillip Randolph and Milton P. Webster of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. All to no avail.

JAN 17 1942

Communication received by the painters from Lindelof denied that the Brotherhood is discriminating against the Negro stating that the organization has 16 local unions chartered under the International. He stated further that there were many Negroes affiliated with white local unions within the jurisdiction of the Brotherhood.

Lindelof quoted Joe Cross, Omaha representatives, as saying. "On September 27 at a meeting held in Omaha it was agreed to allow Negro painters to go to work on the Bomber plant without cost. This was done and Negro painters went to work. We have kept our part of the agreement but it seems they are determined to cause trouble, regardless."

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

NEGROES NOT ADMITTED TO A. F. OF L. UNION

As Painters And Decorators

JAN 25 1942

OMAHA, Jan. 22—(ANP)—"It is indeed distressing that a group of white Americans in these perilous times denies a group of black Americans the right to work." said John Newton, secretary of the painters division of the North Side Building and Trade Council here last week. Mr. Newton was referring to the AFL International Painters and Decorators union of America and their refusal to admit Negro painters of Omaha to either join the local union or to be granted a charter through the executive painters' council here.

JAN 25 1942

For over two years, admission to the union has been sought by Negro painters, to no avail. Conferences were held with International Organizer Joseph L. Gross, letters were sent to President William L. Green, of the AFL, President L. P. Lindelof of the international, the OPM and FEPC, and to A. Philip Randolph and Milton P. Webster of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

Confab Goes to Naught

According to Mr. Newton, the Fair Employment Practices committee sent Theodore R. Poston, public relations man, Ald. Earl B. Dickerson and later Mr. Donovan to investigate the complaints, but nothing came of these conferences.

A communication received from President L. P. Lindelof said efforts had been made on his part to secure acceptance of membership into the union or the issuance of a charter of their own from the Omaha District Council No. 7, but the council as well as the local unions allegedly stated that no colored local union was wanted in Omaha. Further, the international organization could not force acceptance of Negro painters owing to a provision in the general constitution which specifically states "the general executive board cannot institute a charter in any locality without the consent of the local unions or district counci' already established."

Mr. Lindelof declared that no acts of discrimination are practiced against the Negro or any other race, color or creed, and called attention to the 16 Negro local unions chartered under the international and the Negro representation of four at the convention in columbus, O., last September.

Negro Painters at Fault

JAN 25 1942

International Representative Joe Gross of Omaha is said to have communicated with President Lindelof stating that on last Sept. 27 Negro painters were given an opportunity to work at the bomber plant without cost. Mr. Gross holds that the union kept their part of the agreement, but the Negro painters did not.

Members of the FEPC stated that the committee does not have the power to comple a union to grant a charter to any group, nor to open its membership rol's to any individual or group of individuals; that their jurisdiction extends only to removing impediments which prevent qualified persons from working on defense projects.

JAN 25 1942

However, Mr. Newton avers that "Due to the very nature of things one cannot hope to build a great labor movement in this country until a better spirit prevails and until a deepening sense of justice and fair play becomes evident and until these highly placed officials, whose duty it is to change these existing conditions manifest some decisive sense of intentions to cure these evils which will surely eat the very heart of our national defense effort."

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

AFL Head Will Suspend Any Union That Persists In Barring Negro Labor

FEB 28 1942

NEW YORK, (C)—Frank Fenton, director of organization for the American Federation of Labor, representing William Green, A. F. of L. president, pledged that he would suspend the charter of a union persisting in barring Negroes from employment.

FEB 28 1942

Mr. Fenton is the A.F. of L.'s representative on President Roosevelt's Fair Employment Practice Committee which held a hearing at the Bar Asso. Building on West 44th street, to determine the extent of discrimination in industrial plants against Negroes, Jews, Catholics, aliens and other groups. President Roosevelt's Committee can act because all contracts for war materials specify that there shall be no discrimination.

Although the A.F. of L. has on a number of occasions condemned discrimination of all kinds, Mr. Fenton's statement is believed to be the first time that a high ranking official promised specifically to suspend or expel a union which barred Negroes from membership. The Belleville is the Chemical and Oil Workers Local 22,022, which has a contract at the plant of Isolantite, Inc. It is a federal local, which means it is chartered directly by the federation which controls its officers and policies. The federation, under its constitution, would have no power to act against a local union which is part of an autonomous international union.

"I'll Lift Their Charter"

The international unions, which comprise the overwhelming bulk of the federation's membership, have the right to specify their own qualifications for membership. The Isolantite company was accused of discrimination in the matter of hiring, and testimony was introduced to show that the company had on Jan. 12, 1942, inserted a newspaper advertisement for white girls and as a result employees at the plant threatened to quit if Negroes were hired.

"Why don't you hire the Negroes," Mr. Fenton said, "and if they don't take them into the union, I guarantee I'll lift the charter."

FEB 28 1942

A number of companies were accused of discrimination, which hold government defense contracts, but each denied it. John Brophy, representing the Congress of Industrial Organizations on the President's Committee, noted for the record that Mayor F. H. LaGuardia had not been specific in his allegations, and said that the CIO was pledged to bring about an effective organization of working men and women, regardless of race.

Houston Informer
Houston, Tex.

Claim Negroes Are Being Accepted As ~~AFL~~ Machinists

MAR 7 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C. —(ANP)—Encouraging reports on the induction of Negroes in the International Association of Machinists, which hitherto has barred them from membership, are said to emanate from the West coast, where the Lockheed Vega plant at Burbank has suspended all of the rules of the union referring to ''race'' and inducted three Negroes into the union. This was in Lodge 727, it is reported, and the group plans to induct an even larger group of Negroes since the plant itself has surpassed all others in hiring of Negro workers on the coast.

When the management stated out with its plan to hire Negroes its first group went to work very quietly. But when the total reached 100 and another Negro worker was to be taken on, the officials invited Joe Louis to the plan to assist in inducting the worker on the job.

Proud of its record, the Lockheed Vega film will have around 300 Negroes in allca pacities when it finishes its increases.

MAR 7 1942

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

AFL Leader Calls on Firm to Hire Negroes at Job Hearing

FEB 18 1942

By Eugene Gordon

Frank Fenton, representing AFL President William Green yesterday instructed a top-ranking official of a big war-contract firm to "go ahead and hire" Negro girls and that he, Fenton, would see to it that if the AFL union to which they belonged did not protect the Negro girls in their new jobs, he, personally, would take away the local's charter.

FEB 18 1942

This declaration followed testimony by Kenneth Hamilton, vice president of Isolantite, Inc., Belleville, N. J., before the President's Fair Employment Practice Committee, that his firm did not hire Negro girls because the white girls "would not stand for it."

FEB 18 1942

Mr. Hamilton's counsel backed up his employer's statement, asserting that girls in the office of Isolantite, Inc., had told him they would walk out "in a body" if Negro girls came to work there.

Yesterday's was the second and closing session of hearings of complaints against companies which, although holding war contracts, continue to refuse to employ qualified Negroes, Jews and other minority elements of the American people. Hearings were held in the New York Bar Association Building, 42 W. 44th St., and were conudcted by Eugene P. Davidson, Negro field representative of the Fair Employment Practice Committee. Other members of the committee sat as a jury. Dr. Malcolm MacLean, president of Hampton Institute, Va., chairman of the FEPC, presided.

David Sarnoff, president of the Radio Corporation of America and a member of the FEPC, asked Mr. Hamilton and his lawyer whether they had tried to remedy the situation. They had not, they said. Counsel said the company had no control over the girls.

"Who has?" asked Mr. Sarnoff.

"The AFL union to which they belong. If the union condones their action, what can the company do?"

FEB 18 1942

"What is the name of that union which, you imply, protect these girls in their attitude?"

The question came from Frank Fenton, AFL representative on the FEPC.

Mr. Hamilton and his counsel said it was the Chemical and Oil Workers Union, Local 22.026, AFL.

"I advise you to go ahead and hire the girls, and if trouble arises, the FEPC will help you," Mr. Sarnoff said.

Fenton insisted on knowing more of what the company had done. He said he felt sure the fault was with the firm and not with the girls or the union. **Then he added emphatically**, while the crowded hearing-room applauded:

"I want to say this for the record. You hire Negro girls, and if the union gives any trouble, I guarantee you that I will lift its charter. I urge you at once to hire Negroes."

FEB 18 1942

When the company tried to shift attention from its proven discrimination, Earl Dickerson, Negro Alderman of Chicago and member of the FEPC, took occasion at that point to explain that there was no controversy between the FEPC and the union. There had been no proof offered, Mr. Dickerson said, that the union was at fault. Moreover, he added, the committee now had the promise of Mr. Hamilton and his counsel that Negroes would be hired and that the union, if necessary, would be "handled" by the FEPC.

Other firms in yesterday's hearing came off somewhat better. These did not include, however, the Sperry Gyroscope Co., Brooklyn, against which a definite case of anti-Semitism and Jim Crowism was made. In spite of attempts by Horace B. Hitchcock, counsel for the company, to show that it hired "on the basis of merit only," complaining witnesses were convincing in their testimony that discrimination was proved in Sperry Gyroscope's hiring only 21 Negroes among 11,000 workers.

FEB 18 1942

NO JEWS HIRED

Jean Kritzer, field organizer for the American Jewish Congress, testified to advertisements by that company for "Christian, white and American" workers only. Harry Feld told the committee that his qualications had just about got him a job, when the interviewer for Sperry Gyroscope noticed "Hebrew" opposite "Religion" on Feld's application blank. He was told bluntly that the firm didn't take Jews.

Miss Kritzer said also that she was told by a Mr. Click, assistant director of personnel at the plant, that Jews were taboo, because they were "Communists."

FEB 18 1942

Yesterday's attack on labor unions had been prepared for, indirectly, by Mayor LaGuardia the day before. LaGuardia, following Lieut. Gov. Charles W. Poletti's suggestion that the District Attorney's office prosecute cases of discrimination as interfering with war production, had said that labor unions which "won't take Negroes" ought not escape punishment."

The FEPC agreed that certain unions which condoned discrimination would be approached by the committee. It put the burden of proof, however, on employers. In no case was there proved an instance of discrimination involving a CIO union. Wherever the AFL was involved, Fenton pledged to investigate and to remedy the matter.

Dr. MacLean announced, just before the hearing adjourned late yesterday afternoon, that cases not yet heard would be worked out by correspondence between the FEPC and the companies. The main consideration, he declared, was to get every available man and woman, qualified to do so, at work in the war industries as a prerequisite to defeating Hitler and the Axis.

Decisions in the two-day hearings will be announced within a week or so.

Cleveland Machinists Draw Line

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo

SEP 25 1942

Block Negroes From Work at Lathe Plant

SEP 25 1942

CLEVELAND. — (ANP) — Negroes cannot be employed on machines at the Warner-Swasey lathe manufacturing plant here because the AFL machinists' union bars them and won't agree to their employment.

The Warner-Swasey company, one of the aristocrats in machine manufacturing in the entire country, was a completely "lily-white" plant until war time necessities, developed labor needs.

After the Presidential proclamation on fair employment practice the company employed a few porters, later moving these up to semi-skilled positions. They are now ready to proffer employment in the higher brackets to qualified Negroes who have made good records.

SEP 25 1942

The union has flatly refused thus far to permit Negroes to work on machines.

The shop union is said to have told officials who asked permission for Negroes to work, "hire some in the office then we will accept them in the shop." The company has two Negroes working in the office now but the shop group still refuses to accept them on machinists' jobs.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Negro Youth Crashes Barriers Of Welders' Union; NYA Grad Will Get Shipbuilding Job

FEB 20 1942

LOS ANGELES. — (ANP) — Edward S. Greene, 21, a graduate of an NYA defense work project, has been accepted into the Boiler Makers' union, an AFL affiliate, as a journey-man welder and will enter the service of the California Shipbuilding corporation, Wilmington, Cal, within one week.

Landing in Los Angeles from Memphis at 18, Greene could find no job but undaunted went out to the richest sections of the city, calling from door to door with a shoe-shine box. Within a short time he had several other youths working for him. But this business, profitable as it was, did not hold him long. At 20 he had secured and was operating the concessions at the Cinema Sports center, famous gathering place of the Hollywood [illegible] After he had developed an excellent business—too excellent, in [illegible] larger operator was able to obtain the concessions.

Meanwhile Greene graduated from the Institute of Science and Philosophy and Psychology in Los Angeles At this time the national defense work became the dominating influence of the nation. Greene wanted to get into it, and made several futile efforts without success. He went to Floyd Covington, of the Urban league, and through the efforts of Mr. Covington and the Allied organizations he was entered as a trainee at the Compton Resident Work center, sponsored by the NYA.

FEB 20 1942

Among the hundred-odd youths at the center, Greene and another boy were the only Negroes, and the other boy soon fell by the wayside, leaving Greene the sole representative of his race on the project.

What happened then? A lot of things happened—a lot of things which indicate that the youth of America does not share the hidebound prejudices of his elders. Greene was an excellent student, a good mixer, and the type who commands respect. The white boys liked him—and respected him. Soon he had been elected chairman of the dance committee—this in a suburb of Los Angeles which does not allow Negro residents! Greene ran the dances and even decorated the center dance hall.

The crowning event of Green's residence at the center came a short time later when he was elected, over two white rivals, as mayor of the center.

Greene became the leader of a [illegible] white, which pooled its funds and rented an [illegible] Compton and lived [illegible] on a share-end-share-alike [illegible] during the remaining months of their training.

FEB 20 1942

All completed their training and were given their tests. One of the white boys has not yet passed but Greene and the other three have not only passed but by now are at work helping make ships for Uncle Sam. The tests were the rigid federal type and were conducted in government laboratories under exacting conditions.

In Greene's experiences the Allied organizations find great hope. George A. Beavers Jr., Golden State Mutual Life Insurance official, who is president, placed particular emphasis on it when he said:

FEB 20 1942

"The case for true democracy in America is getting brighter. The experience of this young man (Greene) proves it. Organizations similar to ours all over the nation must press their fight, and continue to be persistent and alert. And young men of ability and determination, must like young Edward Greene, make good when opportunities are made for them."

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

AFL Leader Calls on Firm to Hire Negroes at Job Hearing

FEB 18 1942

By Eugene Gordon

Frank Fenton, representing AFL President William Green yesterday instructed a top-ranking official of a big war-contract firm to "go ahead and hire" Negro girls and that he, Fenton, would see to it that if the AFL union to which they belonged did not protect the Negro girls in their new jobs, he, personally, would take away the local's charter. FEB 18 1942

This declaration followed testimony by Kenneth Hamilton, vice president of Isolantite, Inc., Belleville, N. J., before the President's Fair Employment Practice Committee, that his firm did not hire Negro girls because the white girls "would not stand for it."

Mr. Hamilton's counsel backed up his employer's statement, asserting that girls in the office of Isolantite, Inc., had told him they would walk out "in a body" if Negro girls came to work there.

Yesterday's was the second and closing session of hearings of complaints against companies which, although holding war contracts, continue to refuse to employ qualified Negroes, Jews and other minority elements of the American people.

Hearings were held in the New York Bar Association Building, 42 W. 44th St., and were conudcted by Eugene P. Davidson, Negro field representative of the Fair Employment Practice Committee. Other members of the committee sat as a jury. Dr. Malcolm MacLean, president of Hampton Institute, Va., chairman of the FEPC, presided.

David Sarnoff, president of the Radio Corporation of America and a member of the FEPC, asked Mr. Hamilton and his lawyer whether they had tried to remedy the situation. They had not, they said. Counsel said the company had no control over the girls.

"Who has?" asked Mr. Sarnoff.

"The AFL union to which they belong. If the union condones their action, what can the company do?" FEB 18 1942

"What is the name of that union which, you imply, protect these girls in their attitude?"

The question came from Frank Fenton, AFL representative on the FEPC.

Mr. Hamilton and his counsel said it was the Chemical and Oil Workers Union, Local 22,026, AFL.

"I advise you to go ahead and hire the girls, and if trouble arises, the FEPC will help you," Mr. Sarnoff said.

Fenton insisted on knowing more of what the company had done. He said he felt sure the fault was with the firm and not with the girls or the union. Then he added emphatically, while the crowded hearing room applauded:

"I want to say this for the record. You hire Negro girls, and if the union gives any trouble, I guarantee you that I will lift its charter. I urge you at once to hire Negroes." FEB 18 1942

When the company tried to shift attention from its proven discrimination, Earl Dickerson, Negro Alderman of Chicago and member of the FEPC, took occasion at that point to explain that there was no controversy between the FEPC and the union. There had been no proof offered, Mr. Dickerson said, that the union was at fault. Moreover, he added, the committee now had the promise of Mr. Hamilton and his counsel that Negroes would be hired and that the union, if necessary, would be "handled" by the FEPC.

Other firms in yesterday's hearing came off somewhat better. These did not include, however, the Sperry Gyroscope Co., Brooklyn, against which a definite case of anti-Semitism and Jim Crowism was made. In spite of attempts by Horace B. Hitchcock, counsel for the company, to show that it hired "on the basis of merit only," complaining witnesses were convincing in their testimony that discrimination was proved in Sperry Gyroscope's hiring only 21 Negroes among 11,000 workers. FEB 18 1942

NO JEWS HIRED

Jean Kritzer, field organizer for the American Jewish Congress, testified to advertisements by that company for "Christian, white and American" workers only. Harry Feld told the committee that his qualications had just about got him a job, when the interviewer for Sperry Gyroscope noticed "Hebrew" opposite "Religion" on Feld's application blank. He was told bluntly that the firm didn't take Jews.

Miss Kritzer said also that she was told by a Mr. Click, assistant director of personnel at the plant, that Jews were taboo, because they were "Communists." FEB 18 1942

Yesterday's attack on labor unions had been prepared for, indirectly, by Mayor LaGuardia the day before. LaGuardia, following Lieut. Gov. Charles W. Poletti's suggestion that the District Attorney's office prosecute cases of discrimination as interfering with war production, had said that labor unions which "won't take Negroes" ought not escape punishment."

The FEPC agreed that certain unions which condoned discrimination would be approached by the committee. It put the burden of proof, however, on employers. In no case was there proved an instance of discrimination involving a CIO union. Wherever the AFL was involved, Fenton pledged to investigate and to remedy the matter.

Dr. MacLean announced, just before the hearing adjourned late yesterday afternoon, that cases not yet heard would be worked out by correspondence between the FEPC and the companies. The main consideration, he declared, was to get every available man and woman, qualified to do so, at work in the war industries as a prerequisite to defeating Hitler and the Axis.

Decisions in the two-day hearings will be announced within a week or so.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Cleveland Machinists Draw Line

SEP 25 1942

Block Negroes From Work at Lathe Plant

SEP 25 1942

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo

CLEVELAND. — (ANP) — Negroes cannot be employed on machines at the Warner-Swasey lathe manufacturing plant here because the AFL machinists' union bars them and won't agree to their employment.

The Warner-Swasey company, one of the aristocrats in machine manufacturing in the entire country, was a completely "lily-white" plant until war time necessities developed labor needs.

After the Presidential proclamation on fair employment practice the company employed a few porters, later moving these up to semi-skilled positions. They are now ready to proffer employment in the higher brackets to qualified Negroes who have made good records. SEP 25 1942

The union has flatly refused thus far to permit Negroes to work on machines.

The shop union is said to have told officials who asked permission for Negroes to work, "hire some in the office then we will accept them in the shop." The company has two Negroes working in the office now but the shop group still refuses to accept them on machinists' jobs.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Negro Youth Crashes Barriers Of Welders' Union; NYA Grad Will Get Shipbuilding Job

FEB 20 1942

LOS ANGELES. — (ANP) — Edward S. Greene, 21, a graduate of an NYA defense work project, has been accepted into the Boiler Makers' union, an AFL affiliate, as a journey-man welder and will enter the service of the California Shipbuilding corporation, Wilmington, Cal, within one week.

Landing in Los Angeles from Memphis at 18, Greene could find no job but undaunted went out to the richest sections of the city, calling from door to door with a shoe-shine box. Within a short time he had several other youths working for him. But this business, profitable as it was, did not hold him long. At 20 he had secured and was operating the concessions at the Cinema Sports center, famous gathering place of the Hollywood After he had developed an excellent business—too excellent, in [illegible] larger operator was able to obtain the concessions.

Meanwhile Greene graduated from the Institute of Science and Philosophy and Psychology in Los Angeles At this time the national defense work became the dominating influence of the nation. Greene wanted to get into it, and made several futile efforts without success. He went to Floyd Covington, of the Urban league, and through the efforts of Mr. Covington and the Allied organizations he was entered as a trainee at the Compton Resident Work center, sponsored by the NYA. FEB 20 1942

Among the hundred-odd youths at the center, Greene and another boy were the only Negroes, and the other boy soon fell by the wayside, leaving Greene the sole representative of his race on the project.

What happened then? A lot of things happened—a lot of things which indicate that the youth of America does not share the hidebound prejudices of his elders. Greene was an excellent student, a good mixer, and the type who commands respect. The white boys liked him—and respected him. Soon he had been elected chairman of the dance committee—this in a suburb of Los Angeles which does not allow Negro residents! Greene ran the dances and even decorated the center dance hall.

The crowning event of Green's residence at the center came a short time later when he was elected, over two white rivals, as mayor of the center.

Greene became the leader of a [illegible] white, which pooled its funds and rented an [illegible] Compton and lived [illegible] on a share-end-share-alike [illegible] during the remaining months of their training.

All completed their training and were given their tests. One of the white boys has not yet passed but Greene and the other three have not only passed but by now are at work helping make ships for Uncle Sam. The tests were the rigid federal type, and were conducted in government laboratories under exacting conditions.

In Greene's experiences the Allied organizations find great hope. George A. Beavers Jr., Golden State Mutual Life Insurance official, who is president, placed particular emphasis on it when he said:

"The case for true democracy in America is getting brighter. The experience of this young man (Greene) proves it. Organizations similar to ours all over the nation must press their fight, and continue to be persistent and alert. And young men of ability and determination, must like young Edward Greene, make good when opportunities are made for them."

FEB 20 1942

35i-1942

No Equality for Kaiser Negroes; AFL Pledged It 2 Weeks Ago

P.M. Daily
N.Y. N.Y.

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN

PM Exclusive

The agreement reached by the War Man Power Commission (WMPC) with the Kaiser Co. and AFL shipyard unions in Portland, Ore., two weeks ago to end anti-Negro discrimination today still is a dead letter.

A statement by Tom Ray, lily-white leader of Local 72, Boilermakers' Union, indicated that, despite a few token upgradings of Negro workers at the Kaiser Vancouver yards, Ray and his cohorts are determined to keep Negro workers "in their places."

OCT 21 1942

Ray told the United Press that he objected to the company's action in "rehiring" eight Negro workers as journeymen—at $1.20 an hour—instead of common laborers—at 88 cents an hour.

Freezing of Jobs

He said the union had agreed last Friday to "freeze" all men in the jobs they held on that day. Ray said:

"The unions' freezing order means men cannot be transferred from one union to another or from one job to another without consent of the unions involved."

And then Ray added charitably:

"The rehiring appears to be an oversight on the part of the company."

Mrs. Anna Rosenberg, WMPC regional director who negotiated the original agreement, said that she expected a full report from Edgar F. Kaiser by next Tuesday or sooner on what has happened to every Negro in the yards since the agreement was reached.

OCT 21 1942

The only concrete promise Mrs. Rosenberg obtained from Ray was that he would permit Negroes to do skilled work. But as far as union membership was concerned—he said "no" and the WMPC said it was powerless.

The few Negro workers at Vancouver who have been upgraded in the last few days, merely point up how the agreement has been violated by Ray.

Whites Upgraded

White workers from New York, originally hired as laborers, were upgraded without questioning, on the first Kaiser-bound train, from laborers at 88 cents an hour to helpers at 95 cents.

I know because I was one of those upgraded in this wholesale fashion.

But the Negroes are being promoted singly and with no assurance that once they have reached the helper stage, they ever will go farther.

PM learned authoritatively today that the Kaiser Co. has surrendered to a demand by the Portland unions not to recruit workers from New York City again.

From the very outset of Kaiser's decision to hire in New York, the unions opposed him. And when the issue of the Negro workers arose, the opposition became terrific.

OCT 21 1942

The Portland-Vancouver shipyards face a desperate man-power shortage now and, by next March, the Vancouver yard alone will need 25,000 new workers if production schedules are to be met.

Kaiser, it was learned, has agreed to let the unions do their own recruiting henceforth, which, according to the closed-shop contract, is theirs by right.

But he has made this ultimatum—you either supply the workers right away or else the deal is off. The only closed issue is that hiring of New Yorkers is out now or in the future.

ARBITRATE ALL DISPUTES
Wm KASTAN LEADER NOVELTY REFUSES
WE SAY ARBITRATION is the AMERICAN WAY
LEADER NOVELTY REFUSES
RECEIVING

There's nothing like a quick beauty treatment to freshen up for work, after a spell on the picket line, according to Sylvia Bretter and Gertrude Riggin. They're shown before going back to work at the Leader Novelty Candy Co., 311 Meserole Ave., Brooklyn. Local 65, Wholesale and Warehouse Workers Union, has a no-strike policy for the duration, but stages the noon-time demonstrations as a protest against the company's refusal to arbitrate a wage dispute.

A.F.L.

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

Kaiser Refuses AFL Demand to Bar Skilled Negro Shipworkers

OCT 24 1942

Union Leader Resents Efficiency of Negro Workers Which Brings Quick Upgrading; Living Up to Federal Contract, Kaiser Says, When He Refuses to Discriminate

OCT 24 1942

PORTLAND, Ore.—A demand by Tom Ray, white, business manager of the boilermakers' union here this week, that the Henry J. Kaiser Shipbuilding Company limit Negro labor to the lower brackets,, was flatly rejected by Henry J. Kaiser, miracle builder of Liberty ships.

Ray had demanded that the company limit Negroes to common labor and segregate their living quarters from those of white workers. He said he was backed in his demands by the Portland Metal Trades Council and J. A. Franklin, international boilermakers' president.

Edgar F. Kaiser, son of Henry Kaiser, and general manager of the shipyards, told reporters that the real reason for the demands and the real issue was racial discrimination. He said his company was under a federal contract not to discriminate against any worker, regardless of color, race or creed.

OCT 24 1942

Ray, in a statement to the press, revealed that his real reason was because efficiency of Negro workers had resulted in their being elevated from common laborers to a skilled status. He said that 23 or 100 Negro workers, imported from New York, had been promoted faster than several thousand white helpers.

Ray also said the company had violated some agreement with the union but this charge was also flatly denied by Kaiser.

OCT 24 1942

The Negroes who were promoted are in training for journeymen's jobs. Several thousand white men who have worked for six months in the yards, were not sufficiently skilled to rate this training, according to company officials.

---

ournal and Guide
Jorfolk, Virginia

Porters Propose Minorities Committee At AFL Convention

OCT 17 1942

TORONTO, Canada — A. Philip Randolph, international president and M. P. Webster, first international vice president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, delegates to the A. F. of L. Convention here introduced the following resolution calling for the establishment of a minorities committee on discrimination on account of race, color, religion or national origin:

Whereas, it is necessary that the complete manpower of the nation be mobilized for use in the armed forces and defense industries for the victory of the United Nations and since discrimination on account of race, color, religion or national origin is a bar to this effort; therefore, be it

OCT 17 1942

"Resolved, that the sixty-second convention of the A. F. of L. set up a minorities committee composed of representatives of the various groups in the A. F. of L. such as Negroes, Jews, Catholics and others, for the purpose of thoroughly exploring the question of discrimination practiced against minority groups of unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. and various industries with a view to mapping out plans and making recommendations to the executive council and subsequent convention to abolish these forms of discrimination as being against sound trade union principles and giving aid and comfort to Fascism in America, and be it further

FURTHER PROVISIONS

"Resolved, that the president of the A. F. of L. be authorized, in cooperation with the executive council, to set up a minorities committee on discrimination on account of race, color, religion or national origin, to investigate various forms and cases of discrimination that may be presented to it or that may come to its attention in any way, and that funds be provided for transportation and stenographic services and other incidental expenses to the carrying out of the purposes of this resolution of the complete abolition of discrimination in unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. and be it further

OCT 17 1942

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

"Resolved, that this committee plan a systematic educational program among the members and officials of the A. F. of L for the enlightenment of the workers on the necessity and value of unity in the labor movement without regard to race, color, religion or national origin."

A hot fight is expected to follow upon the report on this resolution according to the Brotherhood delegates.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Union Czar Wants Negroes Demoted

35 i

OCT 25 1942

PORTLAND, Ore. — (ANP)

Henry Kaiser, owner of the Kaiser Shipbuilding yards, was this week deliberating a protest lodged with him by Tom Ray, union czar, over use of Negro workers in skilled positions at the yards in Vancouver, Washington.

Ray demanded that Negro workers be demoted from skilled to common labor jobs, and asked further that they be segregated from white employes. Ray said he was endorsed in his position by J. A. Franklin, international president of the union, and the Portland Metal Trades council.

Several colored workers imported from New York last month for employment in the ship yards by the Kaiser company had been transferred under the boilermakers' jurisdiction Ray stated after they had complained of discrimination and had allegedly threatened to strike.

OCT 25 1942

Ray is the union boss who was castigated last week from the floor of the 62nd annual convention of the AFL by A. Philip Randolph international president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, for his un-democratic union activity.

OCT 25 1942

The famous leader charged that Ray "boarded a train and read the riot act to Negro workers" who had traveled across the country from New York to Portland to work at the Kaiser yards, as a patriotic duty.

Randolph in a militant 30 minute speech also fired an attack on William Green, AFL president, and the more important affiliated unions, for dodging the issue of discrimination against Negro unionists.

OCT 25 1942

Addresses made by delegates from over the country on democracy and unity were termed "the usual, empty, sugar-coated" expressions by Randolph, who added that they amounted to several pounds of "baloney."

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

UNIONS' JIM CROW SCORED BY RANDOLPH

OCT 24 1942

Calls Delegates' Speeches On Democracy 'Empty And Sugar-Coated'

OCT 24 1942

TORONTO, Canada—Following a report by the Resolution committee setting forth what was termed "the usual empty, sugar-coated declarations" about the hope of the A. F. of L. for the elimination of discriminations on account of race, or color, A. Philip Randolph, international president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, took the floor of the convention here, and scathingly flayed racial discrimination in the A. F. of L. unions.

Randolph pointed out that discrimination by unions on account of color or race fell into four categories: One, unions whose constitutions and rituals have color clauses and provisions against Negro workers becoming eligible for membership.

Two: Unions that have color bars in their constitutions and rituals, but provide auxiliaries for Negroes in which Negroes are the victims of taxation without representation in the conventions of the international unions and cannot participate in the formulation of legislation for the government of the union; three: unions that accept Negro workers but whose locals in certain sections of the country are granted the right to exclude workers on account of race, color or any other reason; four: unions that have no color clauses in their constitutions or rituals but whose customs and practices exclude Negroes from membership.

OCT 24 1942

Randolph told the convention that the A. F. of L. had never shown that it possesses the moral courage to realistically face and handle this question of racial discrimination, and that it had taken refuge in the so-called theory of autonomy of the international union.

He severely condemned the action of Tom Ray, secretary of Local 72 of the Boiler Makers, Shipbuilders, Iron Workers and Helpers Union in the Henry J. Kaiser shipyards in Portland, Ore., where 30 Negroes who were imported from New York, were discriminated against. He told the convention that President William Green, Matthew Woll and John P. Frey knew that the report of the resolution committee was meaningless and would have no effect on the problem of racial discrimination in the unions affiliated with the A.F.L.

A resolution presented by Randolph and M. P. Webster, first international vice president of the Brotherhood, called for the establishment of a minorities committee to explore the problems of discrimination in the A. F. of L. and conduct a campaign of education among the members and officials of the A.F.L

OCT 24 1942

Dan Tobin, president of the Teamsters union sat in the convention during Randolph's bitter assault on the A F. of L. unions, but had nothing to say. The following day, however, he came into the convention and called for the right of special privilege to make a statement in which he attacked Randolph and charged him with fomenting dangerous feelings of hatred between the races.

Tobin expressed amazement at Randolph's statement that upwards of twenty-million Negroes would not continue to take discrimination, segregation, and jim-crow in America. At the close of Tobin's attack, Randolph rose to reply but President William Green refused to grant him the floor on the grounds that there was not sufficient time.

THE ~~A. F. OF L.~~ AND THE NEGRO

OCT 31 1942

AGC
N.Y., N.Y.

THE ATTACK of Dan Tobin, head of the Teamsters Union, on A. Phillip Randolph, head of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, at the International Labor Conference in Canada recently, is indicative of how hard racial prejudice dies in the ranks of organized labor. Mr. Randolph had protested against retention of clauses in the constitutions of various American Federation of Labor Unions which limit membership to whites only.

OCT 31 1942

After Mr. Randolph's address, Mr. Tobin took the floor and in a bitter tirade made a personal attack on Randolph as one who was stirring up racial discord. And President William Green, the presiding officer, refused to permit the Negro leader to reply to this unfair attack, which added to the resentment.

Mr. Randolph had severely condemned the action of Tom Ray, secretary of Local 72 of the Boilermakers, Shipbuilders, Ironworkers and Helpers Union in the Henry J. Kaiser shipyards in Portland, Ore., where thirty Negroes imported from New York were discriminated against and not permitted to work because they had no union affiliation and could not get into this union because of a constitutional clause which says that all members must be of the white race.

Mr. Green and other leaders of the A. F. of L. have on numerous occasions condemned such discrimination but have refused to take any action to put an end to it. They are thus placing prejudice above welfare of the country.

OCT 31 1942

Chairman McNutt of the War Manpower Commission would do well to revoke the discriminatory clauses against Negroes in labor unions as a war measure.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, PA.

AFL UNION LIFTS BAN ON NEGROES

OCT 10 1942

NEW YORK CITY, Oct. 8—Mrs. Anna M. Rosenberg, regional director of the War Manpower Commission in New York, who last week got an AFL union to rescind its ban against admitting Negroes to work with the Henry J. Kaiser shipyards, where 20,000 workers are being recruited, reports that a non-discrimination policy has been finally instituted on the large defense job and that Negro workers sent last week were "satisfied."

OCT 10 1942

More than 1,000 New Yorkers began work at the Kaiser shipyards in Portland, Oregon, and Vancouver, Wash., last week-end, and among them were 22 Negroes who had protested that Local 72, International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Shipbuilders and Helpers (AFL), sought to bar them from skilled jobs and union membership. Because of the difficulties they experienced in trying to break down the jim-crow against them, the colored workers had appealed to Mrs. Rosenberg.

35i-1942
Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

HIRED AS WELDER

LOS ANGELES, Cal.—Edward S. Greene, 21, a graduate of an NYA defense work project, has been accepted into the Boiler Maker's Union, an AFL affiliate, as a journey-man welder and will enter the service of the California Shipbuilding Corp., Wilmington, Cal., within one week.

MAR 14 1942

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

FDR DEMANDS AFL UNION TO END JIM CROW

MAR 22 1942

Machinists To Work With Race

MAR 22 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C., Mar. 19—Following action by President Roosevelt, Local 68 of the International Association of Machinists, A. F. of L., is now permitting Negroes to work in defense industries in San Francisco, Dr. Malcolm S. MacLean, chairman of the President's committee on Fair Employment Practice, announced yesterday at the conclusion of the regular monthly meeting of the committee here.

A Negro machinist, Charles Sullivan of San Mateo, Calif., began working last Wednesday at the Bethlehem Shipbuilding company, taking a job he had been offered several months ago, but which he could not fill then, because Local 68, which has a contract with Bethlehem, would not grant him a permit.

President F. D. R. Enters Case

President Roosevelt entered the case following charges brought against Local 68 of San Francisco and Local 751 of Seattle by the Committee on Fair Employment Practice which cited the two local unions to him as violating Executive Order 8802 by their continued refusal to let Negroes work in plants where the two locals had contracts.

At public hearings in Los Angeles last October, Sullivan and other witnesses testified that they had applied for work as machinists, or had been offered such work, and that in each case they were barred from taking the jobs because of the rules of the International Association of Machinists barring Negroes as members.

Sullivan is now working at Bethlehem and attending in-plant training classes, it has been established, and other qualified Negroes will be "cleared" by Local 68, the Union has announced.

MAR 22 1942

"In the past, since Negroes could not be members of the union, and since only IAM members could work on the job, this situation meant that no Negroes could get machinists jobs in San Francisco and Seattle," Dr. MacLean said.

President Demands Action

After weeks of negotiations, the case was referred to the executive council of the machinists and to Harvey W. Brown, International president. When the locals insisted on barring colored workers, the committee on Fair Employment Practice cited the two locals to the President on January 18.

A.F. OF L.
Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

AFL Machinists Admit Negroes FEPC Reports

MAR 28 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Following action by President Roosevelt, Local 68 of the International Association of Machinists, A.F. of L., is now permitting Negroes to work in defense industries in San Francisco. Dr. Malcolm S. MacLean, chairman of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice, announced Monday, March 16, at the conclusion of the regular monthly meeting of the committee here.

A Negro machinist, Charles Sullivan of San Mateo, Calif., began working last Wednesday at the Bethlehem Shipbuilding company, taking a job he had been offered several months ago, but which he could not fill then, because Local 68, which has a contract with Bethlehem, would not grant him a permit.

President Roosevelt entered the cases following charges brought against Local 68 of San Francisco and Local 751 of Seattle by the Committee on Fair Employment Practice which cited the two local unions to him as violating Executive Order 8802 by their continued refusal to let Negroes work in plants where the two locals had contracts.

At public hearings in Los Angeles last October, Sullivan and other witnesses testified that they had applied for work as machinists, or had been offered such work, and that in each case they were barred from taking the jobs because of the rules of the International Association of Machinists barring Negroes as members.

Sullivan is now working at Bethlehem and attending in-plant training classes, it has been established, and other qualified Negroes will be "cleared" by Local 68, the union has announced.

MAR 28 1942

"In the past, since Negroes could not be members of the union, and since only I.A.M. members could work on the job, this situation meant that no Negroes could get machinists' jobs in San Francisco and Seattle." Dr. Mac Lean said.

After weeks of negotiations, the case was referred to the executive council of the machinists and to Harvey W. Brown, international president. When the locals insisted on barring colored workers, the Committee on Fair Employment Practice cited the two locals to the President on January 18.

The committee recommended that the President summon Harvey Brown and the presidents of Locals 68 and 751 "and require them at once to take the necessary corrective action," MacLean explained.

Mobile, Ala., Register
March 23, 1942

AFL Won't Tolerate Racketeer, Negro Labor Mass Meeting Told

A promise that "racketeering' will not be tolerated in the American Federation of Labor leadership in Mobile was given a colored audience yesterday afternoon by George Googe, Southern AFL representative from Atlanta, Ga., in addressing a rally at the Colored Community Center on St. Anthony Street, held under the sponsorship of the AFL colored organizing committee.

"They say that racketeers have gotten into the labor movement," Googe told his hearers.

"If there is a single racketeer among the American Federation of Labor leaders in Mobile," he continued, "and I find evidence to fit the charge, then I will be the first to come down here and see that he is expelled and sign a warrant for his arrest. The conviction of one labor leader on criminal charges doesn't make crooks out of all the rest of us any more than a conviction of one church official for embezzling church funds makes crooks out of all church members."

Googe denounced what he described as a "concerted movement to overthrow the 40-hour week and put labor back to the conditions of the early '20's'," and asserted that the effect of repealing the 40-hour week would be to "cut wages one-third for all work over 40 hours."

"And if Congress can cut wages over 40 hours by one-third," he shouted, "it can cut the wages for the first 40 hours one-third."

The AFL official credited the federation with leading a movement for extension of defense training to colored workers and declared that it is the nation's duty to give every citizen an opportunity "to train himself for the job where he fits best."

"Winning this war," he said, "is a job that will take everything this nation has."

The unions should go hand in hand with the churches, according to J. N. Davis, assistant to the president of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Shipbuilders and Helpers of America, who spoke at the rally.

Informing his audience that he is one of 12 members of a national council on labor relations of the Episcopal denomination, Davis insisted that for organized labor to be successful, "it must follow the concepts of the church and Christ."

"Man can either travel the upward path of democracy toward Christ and peace," he said, "or the downward path of dictatorship toward anti-Christ and slavery. Man is at the crossroads of his fate. He can choose Christ or anti-Christ."

Others participating in the program included Leo B. Carter, business agent for the teamsters' local; the Rev. B. B. Williams of the St. Louis Street Baptist Church; Theodore Scott, AFL organizer from Dallas, Texas; John LeFlore of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and W. S. Hamler.

Cleveland Woolfe acted as master of ceremonies and the moulders' local furnished music.

Birmingham, Ala. News
April 20, 1942

Convention Politics Simmers As Alabama AFL Starts Sessions

Hugh Brown Announces He Will Oppose Roper For Post Of President

With a registration of 724 at noon Monday, the largest since 1935, the 41st annual convention of the Alabama State Federation of Labor opened at the Thomas Jefferson Hotel in an atmosphere predominated by convention politics.

Mayor W. Cooper Green and Police Commissioner Eugene (Bull) Conner, welcomed the delegates to Birmingham on behalf of the city. County Commission President Bob Wharton and Associate Commissioners Henry Sweet and Earl Bruner, added a welcome from the county governing body.

John H. Busby, veteran of the organized labor movement in Alabama, introduced the speakers at the opening session.

Despite earlier reports that politics within the convention would be at a premium, the opening session developed at least one major contender for the office of president with announcement by Hugh Brown, of the electricians that he would offer for president in opposition to Sam E. Roper, Sheffield, who has held the office several years. Mr. Roper has not said officially what his position would be, although sentiment for both men is said to be strong with indications that, should a fight develop, it will be one of the hottest in the history of the federation.

The race for state secretary, held for years by the veteran W. O. Hare, is somewhat less clear-cut. H. J. Martin, of the carpenters at Tuscaloosa, having declined [illegible] is understood, to enter the campaign.

Calling attention to the momentous questions facing them, not only as trade unionists but as citizens, J. A. Jackson, president of the Birmingham Trades Council, official host, called the convention to order.

City and county officials also stressed the part labor has played in the war effort and congratulated the organization upon its loyalty to the government's program.

The convention stood to the man and cheered roundly when a portrait of the president was hung on the speaker's table.

Among highlights of the annual session are the banquet Monday night with several widely known speakers on the program, and a dance Tuesday night with separate entertainment for Negro delegates.

Many figures prominent in the AFL will be in Birmingham for the convention, including George Googe, Southern representative of the federation; Judge Joseph Padaway, general counsel, and several international representatives of international unions.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illino

3 TICKETS TO BE PRESENTED UNION VOTERS

Predicts "Most Hectic Labor Ordeal" In New Orleans

MAY 30

NEW ORLEANS, La.—The election of officers for the A. F. of L. Longshoremen Union No. 1419 is destined to be the most hectic labor ordeal of the century, when three tickets will be presented to the workers to vote on June 1. Past events influencing the results of the heated contest include an attempt of several years on the part of labor leaders in this port to form a C.I.O.-A.F.L. truce.

The truce was negotiated after the American Federation of Labor swamped the C.I.O. in an election of longshoremen in 1939. At that time Paul Hortman headed the famous 1419 and was the most effective leader in the labor movement ever to rule the local port.

J. Harvey Netter, present president of the union, was formerly a supporter and organizer for the C.I.O., but upon being elected president of the A.F.L. union, changed his colors and has done a fine job in boosting the working conditions for Negro workers in New Orleans.

MAY 30 1942

The assault against Netters dovetails a fight for C.I.O. control of the local A.F.L. union and efforts of A.F.L. upsetters to wrest control of the union election from the mother organization and give this control over to the courts. Netters and his cabinet won a bitter court fight in this regard and the international has been given the authority to supervise the election, although they had been accused of siding with the Netter faction.

The date of the election was set at the Monday night meeting and the present administration headed by Netter, assured the membership that the election would be on the up and up.

MAY 30 1942

Public interest in the election is growing daily and factions of the C.I.O. which are supporting the candidacy of Bob Scott and Wilman Wimbush are desperate in their attempts to oust the Netter faction because Netter double-crossed them in not influencing the organization to sympathies of the C.I.O.

Instead, Netter has busied himself with bolstering the working conditions in this port and catering especially to the workers.

Knoxville, Tenn. Journal
June 15, 1942

AFL Unions Accused By Committee

Negroes Denied Defense Jobs, Group Reports

WASHINGTON, June 14 (AP)—A Presidential committee ruled today that two AFL unions in Chicago had prevented Negroes from working on big defense projects and denounced the policy as "undemocratic and degrading" and contrary to orders of President Roosevelt.

357

In the first such action respecting unions, the President's committee on fair employment practices, created a year ago for the primary purpose of investigating racial discrimination in defense work, sustained charges against local 597, Steamfitters Protective Association, and local 120, Chicago Journeymen Plumbers Union.

It directed the unions to "alter or construe" their policies by June 18 so that qualified Negro plumbers and steamfitters could be employed on a basis of equality with others.

The action was predicated on the complaints of the Cook County Plumbers Association and the Cook County Steamfitters Association, both Negro organizations.

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

AFL Has Dual Union; Bars Negro Promotions

By MANNING JOHNSON

AUG 1 1942

The words "fraternity" and "brotherhood" may be found in the constitution of all labor organizations. They define things that a workingman expects to find in a labor organization. That is the basic reason he joins.

However, in many industries that are organized by certain unions, these words are only high-sounding and meaningless as far as the Negro is concerned. Let us examine the policy of the International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths, Drop Forgers and Helpers, an affiliate of the AFL, in relation to the Negro.

This international union consists of locals and auxiliary locals. The white members are admitted to the locals, the Negroes to the auxiliary or "colored locals." In other words the union is made up of white and "colored" local has no independence and no power. It can not legislate in the interest of its members. It is under the direct supervision and jurisdiction of the nearest white local. That means, in the first place, that the members are not allowed to do anything without first getting the approval and sanction of the white local. Anything that the Negro attempts to do to protect his own interest and to better his condition that is contrary to the wishes of the white local is immediately ruled out.

The Negro cannot join a white local. He dare not try to interfere in the affairs of the white local, yet, the white local is given authority not only to supervise but also to govern the affairs of the "colored auxiliary." All decisions and actions taken must be first approved by the white local. Thus the Negro is not only segregated but he is also robbed of every democratic right.

White supremacy in this international union is further maintained through the constitutional provision that bars Negroes from employment in any job other than "helper." Regardless of the Negro's abilty, he is barred from promotion to "helper apprentices" or blacksmiths. There is no future for the Negro helper. Years of faithful service has no reward through advancement.

Moreover the "colored helper" is not allowed, by the union, to work in shops where white helpers are now employed.

It is such vicious treatment of Negro labor by certain unions that bring labor unions into disrepute and make a mockery of the words fraternity and brotherhood.

Labor must put its house in order to maintain confidence and unity of the American people. The starting point is to rid itself of entrenched discrimination, jimcro and Negro hatred. Let's go after the enemies of Negro labor, for they are the enemies of America.

The International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths, Drop Forgers and Helpers says: "Where there is a sufficient number of colored helpers they may be organized as an auxiliary local and shall be under the jurisdiction of the white local having jurisdiction over that territory. . . Colored helpers shall not transfer except to another auxiliary local composed of colored members, and colored members shall not be promoted to blacksmiths or helper apprentices and will not be admitted to shops where white helpers are now employed."

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

AFL Perpetuates Its Jimcro Acts

LOS ANGELES—Some AFL members insist that the American way of living is one of jimcrowism. Based on the report of James Gray (Negro), president of Local 942 of United Transport Service of America, to the conference held at the CIO Building on June 26, AFL seems to have forgotten this is a people's war and that trade union unity among all groups is imperative.

Gray reported that the AFL has been demanding that his union surrender its charter and become an auxiliary to the jimcro AFL clerk's local, no later than June 1, 1941, or the union's charter would be revoked on that day. "We would not lower our dignity to the extent of affiliating as a jimcro auxiliary," said Gray. And so the fight began. The UTSA then carried the problem to the National Mediation Board in Washington. A vote of 108 to 7 was cast in favor of UTSA. But the AFL is still trying to work on the members of Local 902.

The June 25 conference between UTSA and CIO executives was the beginning of affiliation of local 902 with the CIO. Phillip N. Connelly, state president of the CIO, and Revels Cayton, vice president of the California CIO Industrial Union Council, promised full support to Gray and the local. Connelly insisted that it is impossible to get unity if we continue to permit discriminatory policies to go unchecked, and he considers this a very important problem ~~here where~~ many Negroes and minority groups live and work.

JUL 4 1942

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

PROTESTS A.F.L. DISCRIMINATION IN ATLANTA, GA.

President William Green Asked To Act Against Auxiliary System

ATLANTA.—(ANP) — In a letter addressed to President William Green, of the American Federation of Labor, last week, the Atlanta workers' council protested the jim crow auxiliary system under which the Negro unionist must work in Atlanta.

Under the auxiliary plan, the letter declares, Negroes work under closed shop contract, but without proper representation in arranging terms of those contracts. Neither are his complaints given consideration, under this system it was stated.

One auxiliary, where discrimination is said to be particularly pointed is that of the International Lady Garment Workers union where meetings often are postponed to give way to white gatherings, and no educational or recreational facilities are available to Negro members.

Moreover, a Negro member appointed to the executive board, and told that she would be notified of meetings, has never been advised of such meetings.

Asking that President Green appoint a commission of inqiry into union conditions in Atlanta, the Workers' council pointed out that white unions with auxiliaries are not based upon the principles of genuine unionism, but are clear examples of separatism and discrimination, and proposed that Negro potential unionists be given the right to join unions as all other men join them.

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

PROTEST FILED ON DISCRIMINATION OF ATLANTA ~~AFL UNION~~

Ask President Green to Probe Tactics of White "Brothers" of Negro Workers

JUL 17 1942

Atlanta, July—(ANP,—In a letter addressed to President William Green, of the American Federation of labor, last week, the Atlanta workers' council protested the jim crow auxiliary system under which the Negro unionist must work in Atlanta.

Under the auxiliary plan, the letter declares, Negroes work under closed shop contracts, but without proper representation in arranging terms of these contracts. Neither are his complaints given consideration, under this system, it was stated.

One auxiliary, where discrimination is said to be particularly pointed is that of the International Lady Garment Workers union where meetings often are postponed to give way to white gatherings, and no educational or recreational facilities are available to Negro members. Moreover, a Negro member appointed to the executive board, and told that she would be notified of meetings, has never been advised of such meetings.

Asking that President Green appoint a commission of inquiry into Workers' council pointed out that union conditions in Atlanta, the white unions with auxiliaries are not based upon the principles of genuine unionism, but are clear examples of separation and discrimination, and repared
ination, and proposed that Negro potentional unionists be given the right to join unions as all other men join them.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Workers Send Protest Letter To Wm. Green

Contend Atlanta Union Setup Is Harmful To Cause

In a letter addressed to President William Green, of the American Federation of Labor, the Atlanta Workers Council Saturday had protected the jim crow auxiliary system under which the Negro unionist must work in Atlanta.

The letter declares that under the auxiliary plan as practiced in Atlanta, Negroes work under closed shop contract, but without proper representation in arranging terms of those contracts. Neither are his complaints given consideration under this system, it was stated.

Their desire for apprenticeship, job promotion or just redress of their grievances are often ignored, so often that it seems to be the usual thing, the letter states. They likewise have little or no control of funds which they invest in unions, it was explained.

ASK FOR CHARTER

The council proposes that since the Atlanta unions are practicing seperation and discrimination that Negro unionists be given their own charter with provision for a joint executive board composed of members of both the Negro and the white local-abolition of the auxiliary system.

With the exception of the lathers' and plasterers' unions, there is widespread discrimination of white locals against Negro locals of the same craft, the letter points out. One auxiliary, where discrimination is said to be particularly pointed, is that the International Lady Garment Workers' union where meetings often are postponed to give way to white gatherings, and no educational or recreational facilities are available to Negro members.

Moreover, a Negro member appointed to the executive board and told that she would be notified of meetings, has never been advised of such meetings. A case of objecttional practice by the Negro division of the United Garment Workers was cited and where work under tremendous speed-up and threats was transferred to a non-union white shop from a union Negro without protest from the local.

White business agents, paid to secure work and bargain for Negro crafts-men, do not work for Negro interest and in a few instances even work against their interest, the letter states. Several building contractors, for example, have said that they did not know that local Negro union painters or carpenters were available, it was pointed out.

The council informs Mr. Green that it has a specific case where the representative of the Atlanta Federation of Trades has deprived the laundry workers local of most of their union rights and has made it almost directly responsible to him, and that he has brought general disruption to the union which is paying all the expenses of an office they are supposed to share jointly with the white local.

Perhaps more than any one other case, this has caused Atlantans to question whether the American Federation of Labor structure ~~will not~~ continue to make for the application of the Negro unionist, the council states.

Also protested was the "undemocratic suspension of two Negro organizers, one voluntary and one paid, without trial, because they sought information on the displacement of 86 Negro women garment workers who were fired without a protest from the union which was supposedly protecting them.

"Historically and traditionally, the Negro has met ruthless dicrimination from the unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor," the council points out. Looking to a brighter future, the council seeks positive action by Mr. Green. "At least, let us know where we stand," the council requests.

The council asks President Green to appoint a commission of inquiry into union conditions here—"the least which can be done."

Nine bona fide union representatives signed the council's letter to the A. F. of L. president.

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

AFL Perpetuates Its Jimcro Acts

LOS ANGELES—Some AFL members insist that the American way of living is one of jimcrowism. Based on the report of James Gray (Negro), president of Local 902 of the United Transport Service of America, to the conference held at the CIO Building on June 26, AFL seems to have forgotten this is a people's war and that trade union unity among all groups is imperative.

Gray reported that the AFL has been demanding that his union surrender its charter and become an auxiliary to the jimcro AFL clerk's local, no later than June 1, 1941, or the union's charter would be revoked on that day. "We would not lower our dignity to the extent of affiliating as a jimcro auxiliary," said Gray. And so the fight began. The UTSA then carried the problem to the National Mediation Board in Washington. A vote of 108 to 7 was cast in favor of UTSA. But the AFL is still trying to work on the members of Local 902.

The June 25 conference between UTSA and CIO executives was the beginning of affiliation of local 902 with the CIO. Phillip N. Connelly, state president of the CIO, and Revels Cayton, vice president of the California CIO Industrial Union Council, promised full support to Gray and the local. Connelly insisted that it is impossible to get unity if we continue to permit discriminatory policies to go unchecked, and he considers this a very important problem here where many Negroes and minority groups live and work.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro Named N. Carolina AFL Leader

ASHEVILLE, N. C., Aug. 15.—The state convention of the North Carolina Federation of Labor elected a Negro Vice-President at the concluding session here yesterday. The new vice-president is Haywood Williams of the Liggett and Myers local of the Tobacco Workers International in Durham.

This is the first time in the history of the AFL in North Carolina that a Negro has been elected vice-president. Among many resolutions in support of the war passed by the convention was one to continue work on Labor Day and to invest the wages for that day's work in war bonds.

Carolina Union Flays Lynchings

HIGH POINT, N. C., Aug. 15.—Local 319 of the Textile Workers Union of America passed a resolution [illegible] meeting last night calling upon President Roosevelt to take action to stop the lynch terror against the Negro people in Alabama.

The resolution denounced Governor Dixon of Alabama for disrupting the war effort by inciting violence against the Negro people and by seeking to interfere with the work of FEPC. The resolution of the [illegible] workers against the "white supremacy" movement in the deep south was passed unanimously.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, PA.

AFL UNION CONTINUES TO BAN RACE WORKERS

PORTLAND, Oregon, Aug. 6—Despite promises made last month that there would be no discrimination against Negroes, the AFL Boilermakers Union, Local No. 72 is denying union membership to Negroes and thereby keeping them from employment in the shipyards or confining them to low pay jobs.

This charge was made by Rev. J. James Clow, pastor of Mt. Olivet Baptist church and a committee chairman on the Emergency Advisory Council for Negroes of Portland. It was supported by statements from four workers, three of whom [illegible] training as welders, and all charging that they had been denied membership in the Boilermakers Local because of race.

During the past two weeks the Emergency Advisory Council for Negroes have received signed affidavits from six welders, including Lee Anderson, Shannon H. Goodwin, Phillip B. Burnett, Jr., and Oliver Tolson. These men cannot work in the Portland shipyards at the trade for which they are trained because the Union will not refer them.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Shipbuilding On Coast Opened With AFL Aid

Color Bars Are Being Lowered; Many Get Jobs

WAHINGTON, D. [illegible] (ANP)-The slow breaking down of prejudices against Negroes in the ship building industry on the west coast is highlighted by the action of Local 2 of the Boiler makers union AFL at Oakland, Cal., a part of the "Bay area" which recently cleared 1500 Negroes for employment.

They are to be used as helpers, chippers, skilled and unskilled laborers. During the same period, the Los Angeles Ship building and Dry Dock Co., has engaged 69 as ship fitters's helpers, general helpers, holders-on, riverters, pipe fitters and laborers.

The same union in Portland, Ore., is clearing the way for Negro employment and in Seattle, the labor committee established against Discrimination is following the same pattern of the Bay area, only less broad in scope. Negro and white trade unionists in Seattle are working together to effect the use of Negro labor in this section. Assisting them is the machinists union, against which such a stiff fight was waged not so long ago.

The California ship yard, just outside Los Angeles, has working 428 Negroes as of June 9. The are in all types of work and the company is still hiring Negroes as fast as they can locate them.

The picture, according to Dr. Weaver's office of the Negro Division of the Man power board is a much brighter one but could stand lost more fighting like that Bay Area Council Against Discrimination put up in the case of Charles Sullivan of San Francisco, when he tried to get into the International Association of Machinists.

A determined fight was waged to obtain membership for Sullivan which resulted in the breaking down of the barriers

---

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

UNION REFUSES TO ADMIT NEGROES AS BOILERMAKERS

Nov. 14 1942

PORTLAND, Ore.—To discuss the consistent refusal of Tom Ray of A. F. of L. Boilermakers Union to hire Negroes in capacities other than laborers, representatives of the War Manpower Commission, the Maritime Union, the War Production Board, the Kaiser Company and the American Federation of Labor will met at conference here on Nov. 10.

The Washington Bureau of the N. A. A. C. P. and the N. A. A. C. P. local branch have urged this week that these representatives stand firm and not equivocate on the question of hiring Negroes.

Particularly did the N. A. A. C. P. oppose the palliative of an auxiliary jim-crow union. The N. A. A. C. P. urged the FEPC to participate and set a precedent which conceivably and almost certainly will affect similar situations that arise in the future.

Paul Porter of the War Production Board and officials of the War Manpower Commission have already assured Walter White and the Portland branch that there will be no "pussy-footing."

Asheville N C Citizen
August [illegible] 1942

A DISRUPTIVE VOICE

The Citizen is not acquainted with Edward H. Weylar, secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky State Federation of Labor. Mr. Weylar spoke here Tuesday night before the State A. F. of L. convention. What he had to say was dutifully reported in our news columns. It does not make attractive reading either to the convention host city and state or—we strongly suspect—to the great majority of union men who sat through his choleric disquisition.

Mr. Weylar "pointed out one or two things in this country I don't like." His first animadversion was for Governor Broughton, who had spoken the previous day about the cooperative spirit of labor and capital in North Carolina. "I don't want to stir up hatred," roiled the Kentuckian, "but remember the boss. Don't fool yourselves, boys and girls. Read the history of the labor movement. It's been bloody. When you no longer have a club over the employer he throws off his lamb's cloak."

This is a peculiarly crude and detestable species of hate-rousing. It is hardly improved by Mr. Weylar's further observation (the second thing he doesn't like) that "ninety-five to ninety-eight per cent of the negroes in North Carolina in the last 100 years have not had enough to eat. Forty-five per cent of the white people in the state have been in the same shape." How does he come by this information? It is as false as it is stupid.

The history of the labor movement in Mr. Weylar's home state may have been bloody, particularly if we do not except Harlan county. The Citizen does not pretend that North Carolina is lily white, nor is this any time to recite history and assign blame: but we do contend that labor and capital together have made peaceful progress in mutual understanding on a par with any other southern state. Our labor and social legislation is forward-looking without being extreme. Some of our laws are cited as models for other states, one in particular by Secretary Perkins, who is scarcely a foe of organized labor. And if any large proportion of the population is on starvation rations, that fact has yet to come before any constituted collector of statistics—labor, capital or government.

Mr. Weylar appeals to labor to prepare to "take over the reins of government . . . if we are to reach the Utopia envisioned by Samuel Gompers." The Kentucky union official himself needs to "read the history of the labor movement." The truth, as any schoolboy knows, is that Gompers consistently warned the A. F. of L. never to set itself up in politics, but simply to bargain for immunity from interference by legislatures, courts and executives so that it could use its own collective moral and economic power to bargain collectively with capital.

The Citizen hopes that the North Carolina State Federation of Labor will reject Mr. Weylar's rabid, inaccurate and abusive dissertation in public as it must have done already in mind. His firebrand utterances discredit labor statesmanship and tarnish the cause of labor-capital cooperation in this war crisis. They are a disservice to labor and a positive incitement against national unity.

Spokesman Says Green Will Insist That International End Any Abuses

P.M.

OCT 2 1942

PM's Bureau

PM Exclusive

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2.—A spokesman for the American Federation of Labor declared today that William Green, AFL president, promptly would investigate charges that union officials were discriminating against Negroes in the Kaiser shipyards.

NY; N.Y.

A PM dispatch from Portland disclosed yesterday that officials of Local 72 of the AFL's Boilermakers Union, a unit of the Metal Trades Department now meeting in Toronto, were refusing to classify Negroes, including those sent from New York, for any jobs except as laborers and painters' helpers. Kaiser has a closed-shop contract h this local.

With Green en route to Toronto for the AFL convention opening Monday, the Federation representative, who asked that his name be withheld, said:

"It is a safe bet that Mr. Green on his arrival will look into this case and, if he finds the facts are as reported, will insist that the offending local be ordered by the parent international union to behave as an American organization."

OCT 2 - 1942

National Policy

Reiterating past declarations made by national leaders of the AFL against racial discrimination, the Federation spokesman here insisted that none of its affiliated unions would be permitted to defy national policy on that issue.

"Anyone who today prevents a man from making his maximum contribution to the war effort is little better than a saboteur," he said.

Green is a member of FDR's Committee on Fair Employment Practices and has pleaded long and loud for abandonment of discriminatory practices by AFL unions. Past AFL conventions, however, have sidestepped attempts to crack down on unions guilty of discrimination, on the ground that each international could not be denied its "autonomy" within the Federation.

OCT 2 1942

Showdown Likely

The issue will be fought out again at the coming congress of AFL leaders. Without directly referring to the convention, the Federation representative hinted that the AFL leaders might force a showdown with the Jim Crow bloc this time. He said:

"Minorities have no better friend than the national AFL and the time is past when one or two out of 40,000 local unions will be allowed by un-American action on the part of their officials to do injury to the splendid reputation for sincere all-round Americanism which the national AFL enjoys."

Observers here believe that U. S. participation in the war may give impetus to the anti-discrimination forces at the Federation meeting. With all Government agencies battling desperately to meet manpower shortages, union officials who practice Jim Crowism are being put on the spot. Associates of Green say he is determined to fight it out in terms of the war emergency. Whether his views will be echoed by other controlling figures in the AFL hierarchy will be determined next week.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

NAACP Flays AFL Agent For Nazi Attitude

OCT 8 - 1942

Would Restrict Negroes to Jobs Only as Helpers

OCT 8 - 1942

NEW YORK, N. Y.—(SNS)—Citing the refusal of AFL union agents to permit 30 Negro workers imported to Oregon this week by the Kaiser Shipyards to sign up as anything but painters helper and laborers as a boon to Axis victory, the NAACP, in a wire to William Green, at AF of L convention in Toronto, Canada, said:

"National Association for Advancement of Colored People express hope that convention of American Federation of Labor will unequivocally condemn attitude taken by Local 72 of A. F. of L. Metal Trades Department of Portland, Oregon, and of Tom Ray, its secretary, who attempted to prevent Negro workers for Kaiser's shipyard from working except as painters helpers and laborers.

"We ask American Federation of Labor to go further and not only condemn color bars in all A. F. of L. unions where they exist but to take unequivocal and concrete action to eliminate such restrictions on pain of expulsion from the American Federation of Labor.

"Any action short of this would stultify American Federation of Labor both with respect to its asking privileges and immunities for white workers while denying them to Negro workers and also because barring needed workers from war industries directly contributes to Axis victory, which would lead to enslavement of all workers."

OCT 8 - 1942

COMMEND MRS. ROSENBERG

Learning that Mrs. Anna Rosenberg, Regional Director of the New York War Man Power Commission, had at first refused to fill the Kaiser order because of the union's anti-Negro stand and had taken the order only when she was informed that the barrier had been removed, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People commended Mrs. Rosenburg for her forthright action against labor union discrimination and expressed the hope that other officials will follow her example.

Along with 460 white workers, the 30 Negro workers arrived at the Henry J. Kaiser Shipyards on October 1. The union representatives boarded the special train on which there had been no segregation and reclassified the white workers without experience as helpers in the various crafts.

Many of the white men on the train were without previous mechanical experience. Of the 30 Negroes at least 19 could qualify as boiler makers helpers on the basis of actual experience, and five already held union cards with affiliated A. F. of L. locals, but the Negroes were allowed to sign up only as painter's helpers at 95 cents an hour or as laborers at 85 cents an hour.

OCT 8 - 1942

At first the Negroes refused to sign up, but later all but one signed as helpers or laborers. Marion Hall, the Negro who refused to sign, returned to New York. He was given a return ticket and $10 for expenses by the general manager of the Kaiser yards.

351-1942

A. F. OF L.

Asheville N C Citizen
August [illegible] 1942

A DISRUPTIVE VOICE

The Citizen is not acquainted with Edward H. Weylar, secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky State Federation of Labor. Mr. Weylar spoke here Tuesday night before the State A. F. of L. convention. What he had to say was dutifully reported in our news columns. It does not make attractive reading either to the convention host city and state or—we strongly suspect—to the great majority of union men who sat through his choleric disquisition.

Mr. Weylar "pointed out one or two things in this country I don't like." His first animadversion was for Governor Broughton, who had spoken the previous day about the cooperative spirit of labor and capital in North Carolina. "I don't want to stir up hatred," roiled the Kentuckian, "but remember the boss. Don't fool yourselves, boys and girls. Read the history of the labor movement. It's been bloody. When you no longer have a club over the employer he throws off his lamb's cloak."

This is a peculiarly crude and detestable species of hate-rousing. It is hardly improved by Mr. Weylar's further observation (the second thing he doesn't like) that "ninety-five to ninety-eight per cent of the negroes in North Carolina in the last 100 years have not had enough to eat. Forty-five per cent of the white people in the state have been in the same shape." How does he come by this information? It is as false as it is stupid.

The history of the labor movement in Mr. Weylar's home state may have been bloody, particularly if we do not except Harlan county. The Citizen does not pretend that North Carolina is lily white, nor is this any time to recite history and assign blame: but we do contend that labor and capital together have made peaceful progress in mutual understanding on a par with any other southern state. Our labor and social legislation is forward-looking without being extreme. Some of our laws are cited as models for other states, one in particular by Secretary Perkins, who is scarcely a foe of organized labor. And if any large proportion of the population is on starvation rations, that fact has yet to come before any constituted collector of statistics—labor, capital or government.

Mr. Weylar appeals to labor to prepare to "take over the reins of government ... If we are to reach the Utopia envisioned by Samuel Gompers." The Kentucky union official himself needs to "read the history of the labor movement." The truth, as any schoolboy knows, is that Gompers consistently warned the A. F. of L. never to set itself up in politics, but simply to bargain for immunity from interference by legislatures, courts and executives so that it could use its own collective moral and economic power to bargain collectively with capital.

The Citizen hopes that the North Carolina State Federation of Labor will reject Mr. Weylar's rabid, inaccurate and abusive dissertation in public as it must have done already in mind. His firebrand utterances discredit labor statesmanship and tarnish the cause of labor-capital cooperation in this war crisis. They are a disservice to labor and a positive incitement against national unity.

Spokesman Says Green Will Insist That International End Any Abuses

P.M.

OCT 2 1942

PM's Bureau

PM Exclusive

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2.—A spokesman for the American Federation of Labor declared today that William Green, AFL president, promptly would investigate charges that union officials were discriminating against Negroes in the Kaiser shipyards.

NY, N.Y.

A PM dispatch from Portland disclosed yesterday that officials of Local 72 of the AFL's Boilermakers Union, a unit of the Metal Trades Department now meeting in Toronto, were refusing to classify Negroes, including those sent from New York, for any jobs except as laborers and painters' helpers. Kaiser has a closed-shop contract with this local.

With Green en route to Toronto for the AFL convention opening Monday, the Federation representative, who asked that his name be withheld, said:

"It is a safe bet that Mr. Green on his arrival will look into this case and, if he finds the facts are as reported, will insist that the offending local be ordered by the parent international union to behave as an American organization."

OCT 2 - 1942

National Policy

Reiterating past declarations made by national leaders of the AFL against racial discrimination, the Federation spokesman here insisted that none of its affiliated unions would be permitted to defy national policy on that issue.

"Anyone who today prevents a man from making his maximum contribution to the war effort is little better than a saboteur," he said.

Green is a member of FDR's Committee on Fair Employment Practices and has pleaded long and loud for abandonment of discriminatory practices by AFL unions. Past AFL conventions, however, have sidestepped attempts to crack down on unions guilty of discrimination, on the ground that each international could not be denied its "autonomy" within the Federation.

OCT 2 1942

Showdown Likely

The issue will be fought out again at the coming congress of AFL leaders. Without directly referring to the convention, the Federation representative hinted that the AFL leaders might force a showdown with the Jim Crow bloc this time. He said:

"Minorities have no better friend than the national AFL and the time is past when one or two out of 40,000 local unions will be allowed by un-American action on the part of their officials to do injury to the splendid reputation for sincere all-round Americanism which the national AFL enjoys."

Observers here believe that U. S. participation in the war may give impetus to the anti-discrimination forces at the Federation meeting. With all Government agencies battling desperately to meet manpower shortages, union officials who practice Jim Crowism are being put on the spot. Associates of Green say he is determined to fight it out in terms of the war emergency. Whether his views will be echoed by other controlling figures in the AFL hierarchy will be determined next week.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

NAACP Flays AFL Agent For Nazi Attitude

OCT 8 - 1942

Would Restrict Negroes to Jobs Only as Helpers

OCT 8 - 1942

NEW YORK, N. Y.—(SNS)—Citing the refusal of AFL union agents to permit 30 Negro workers imported to Oregon this week by the Kaiser Shipyards to sign up as anything but painters helper and laborers as a boon to Axis victory, the NAACP, in a wire to William Green, at AF of L convention in Toronto, Canada, said:

"National Association for Advancement of Colored People express hope that convention of American Federation of Labor will unequivocally condemn attitude taken by Local 72 of A. F. of L. Metal Trades Department of Portland, Oregon, and of Tom Ray, its secretary, who attempted to prevent Negro workers for Kaiser's shipyard from working except as painters helpers and laborers.

"We ask American Federation of Labor to go further and not only condemn color bars in all A. F. of L. unions where they exist but to take unequivocal and concrete action to eliminate such restrictions on pain of expulsion from the American Federation of Labor.

"Any action short of this would stultify American Federation of Labor both with respect to its asking privileges and immunities for white workers while denying them to Negro workers and also because barring needed workers from war industries directly contributes to Axis victory, which would lead to enslavement of all workers."

OCT 8 - 1942

COMMEND MRS. ROSENBERG

Learning that Mrs. Anna Rosenberg, Regional Director of the New York War Man Power Commission, had at first refused to fill the Kaiser order because of the union's anti-Negro stand and had taken the order only when she was informed that the barrier had been removed, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People commended Mrs. Rosenburg for her forthright action against labor union discrimination and expressed the hope that other officials will follow her example.

Along with 460 white workers, the 30 Negro workers arrived at the Henry J. Kaiser Shipyards on October 1. The union representatives boarded the special train on which there had been no segregation and reclassified the white workers without experience as helpers in the various crafts.

Many of the white men on the train were without previous mechanical experience. Of the 30 Negroes at least 19 could qualify as boiler makers helpers on the basis of actual experience, and five already held union cards with affiliated A. F. of L. locals, but the Negroes were allowed to sign up only as painter's helpers at 95 cents an hour or as laborers at 85 cents an hour.

At first the Negroes refused to sign up, but later all but one signed as helpers or laborers. Marion Hall, the Negro who refused to sign, returned to New York. He was given a return ticket and $10 for expenses by the general manager of the Kaiser yards.

OCT 10 - 1942

AFL Dodges on Negro Discrimination

Convention Resolution Leaves Union Officials Free to Push Negroes Around

P.M. Daily
N.Y., N.Y.

OCT 14 1942

By JAMES A. WECHSLER

PM's Bureau

TORONTO, Oct. 14.—It took the American Federation of Labor's 62nd convention exactly 26 minutes to bury the issue of anti-Negro discrimination in AFL uinons.

For 25½ minutes the delegates heard A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and one of the two Negro delegates to the meeting, demand creation of an AFL committee to fight Jim Crow. Assailing AFL leaders for "dodging" the proposal, he charged that their speeches about democracy were "boloney," named AFL's biggest names, pleaded for reversal of the Federation's long-time refusal to interfere with discriminatory practices in individual AFL bodies.

OCT 14 1942

In 30 seconds, the convention voted him down. The only dissenting "no" was shouted by Milton P. Webster, Randolph's co-delegate from the Porters Union.

The convention's stand was registered in approving a statement submitted by the Resolutions Committee as an "alternative" to Randolph's propsoal. The declaration indicates that the Federation is firmly opposed to discrimination in general and is preparing to do nothing about it. It echoes similar pronouncements made by innumerable AFL meetings in the past. It means that AFL officials who push Negroes around can continue to do so with impunity—at least as far as any reprisals by the Federation are concerned.

OCT 14 1942

The AFL's Unmentionable

For several hours yesterday it appeared as if the Federation officialdom was hoping to avoid any public airing of the issue. The report of the Resolutions Committee, submitted by John P. Frey, secretary, skipped back and forth and neatly overlooked the race resolution. A couple of lengthy orations drove a lot of the delegates to the nearest bars or restrooms. When the unhappy unmentionable reached the floor it was after 5 o'clock, everybody was thinking about cocktails, and about half of the 600 delegates already were among the missing.

Then Frey read the committee's trapeze act. As he spoke, Randolph, a tall, dignified figure, walked expressionlessly toward the platform. AFL president William Green, looking like the man who wished he wasn't there, recognized Randolph immediately after Frey finished. It was an old sequence. Green, who is genuinely unhappy about the Negro situation, but doesn't want to get into a row with anybody, knew what was coming. The hall got very quiet.

"We have heard many grand and splendid speeches at this convention," Randolph declared, "and if a man from Mars had come here he would have thought most of the speechmakers believed in democracy. When he learned that many of the same men denied Negroes the right to join their unions he would reach the conclusion that these speeches are boloney."

OCT 14 1942

AFL Called Undemocratic

"The American Federation of Labor cannot say it is democratic until it cleans its house and says that regardless of race, color, and creed any worker can join any AFL union—and that any union which does not have this spirit of democracy will be expelled from the Federation."

Citing the urgency of the war manpower situation, Randolph assailed "four types" of discrimination inside the AFL:

¶ More than 15 unions affiliated with the AFL have "color clauses" or "ritualistic provisions" that bar Negro workers. Among them, he listed the International Machinists Assn., the Boilermakers Union and the Department of Railway Employes, Randolph said.

OCT 14 1942

¶ "Many other" AFL unions have "unwritten laws" to keep Negroes out, he charged. Naming the Electrical Workers, Plumbers, and Pipefitters, Randolph described some of the devices employed to keep their memberships white. One union constitution provided, he said, that workers could gain entry to the union "only if recommended by present members—and no Negroes ever will be recommended."

¶ Some international unions have no national ban on Negroes, but permit locals to do as they please, Randolph noted. Citing the Carpenters' Union as an example, Randolph recalled that members of a Texas local threatened to strike on a housing project if Negroes were employed. The housing project was for Negroes.

¶ Randolph also blasted unions which create "undemocratic auxiliaries" — Jim Crow units for Negro members. He pointed out that the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks had organized such auxiliaries for Negroes.

Tom Ray Blasted

Tom Ray, secretary of Local 72 of the Boilermakers, and union czar at the Kaiser Shipyards, was bitterly denounced by the Negro spokesman. Randolph recalled that Ray "boarded a train and read the riot act to Negro workers" who journeyed to Portland from New York to work at the Kaiser yards. Then Randolph observed that Charles J. MacGowan of the Boilermakers' Union, in an address to the AFL convention Tuesday, had assailed the NLRB for "treason" in certifying a CIO complaint at Kaiser and "threatening to hold up" production.

"How does Mr. MacGowan classify discrimination that limits the manpower of our vital shipyards?" Randolph asked.

Most of the delegates in the hall had remained quiet and attentive while Randolph was speaking. He got a relatively big hand when he finished. But he didn't sway any votes.

OCT 14 1942

This year none of the AFL higher-ups answered back, as they had in the past. They took it all and looked at their watches with relief when the speech was over.

AFL's answer to Randolph had been given in the Resolutions Committee report declaring:

"It is unfortunately true that because of geographical situation and other reasons there still remains a degree of discrimination, not only against the colored race, but against other groups because of their racial origin; but we have no hesitancy in comparing the record of the AFL on the question of race discrimination with the activities of any other organization in the United States and Canada.

OCT 14 1942

"We are doubtful whether any other method than the educational one can make the progress which is necessary, for experience has been that where compulsory methods are applied, prejudices are increased instead of diminished."

As they say in Brooklyn, wait till next year.

World-Telegram
New York, N. Y.

AFL Convention Pledges Support

OCT 5 - 1942

Demands Voice At Peace Table

OCT 5 - 1942

By FRED BAILEY,

United Press Staff Correspondent.

TORONTO, Oct. 5.—The American Federation of Labor, with 5,400,000 members in the United States and Canada, opened its 62nd annual convention today with a pledge of united effort to win the war and write a lasting peace.

William Green, president, promised last night that the AFL would "co-operate to the fullest" in President Roosevelt's stabilization program. He wanted a legal interpretation before indorsing the program in full, but said he approved its objectives.

The Executive Council said labor was not being given enough voice in the war effort and must insist upon a place at the peace table.

OCT 5 - 1942

The council said the peace objectives of the AFL were "a world community of nations," in which "no one race or continent should be dominant."

"Proposals to isolate countries, to set up buffer states, to balance powers off against each other belong to the past," it said. "Technical progress, which eliminates space, also eliminates isolation."

The council said the army already had been training personnel to administer defeated countries, "but the organized labor movement of this and other lands will oppose military rule after occupation."

351-1942 A.F.OF L.

Nation
New ~~York,~~ N. Y.

Negroes and Unions

Nov. 7, 1942

DISCRIMINATION against Negroes by powerful international and local unions of the American Federation of Labor has become a national scandal. It is too late for weasel-worded apologies, for assurances that "the situation is improving," for pious citation of the federation's formal—and meaningless—resolutions against race bias, for reminders that employers are more frequently guilty of discrimination than labor unions. These rationalizations are as obsolete as they are unconvincing. They merely reflect the inertia and complacency and—in some cases—the outright prejudices of the A. F. of L.'s high command.

Nor is there any point in the A. F. of L.'s protest that airing the issue will give "aid and comfort" to labor's enemies. The issue has been publicly presented to Westbrook Pegler and his cohorts by such A. F. of L. dignitaries as Tom Ray, boss of Local 72 of the Boilermakers' Union, which has a closed-shop contract with Henry Kaiser. Ray recently informed reporters that he would "pull the place down" if Negroes were given equal classification rights at Kaiser's Portland yard. As this is written, government officials have summoned a conference for November 10 at which Ray will be confronted with new demands for relaxation of his lily-white standards. John P. Frey, head of the A. F. of L.'s metal-trades department, has even sent Ray an indignant telegram, and has indicated that he will support the government representatives in their showdown with the Portland metal-trades crowd. His bold gesture, however, comes after weeks of behind-the-scenes conferences and pleadings to persuade Ray to treat Negroes—who traveled from New York to take jobs at the Kaiser plant—as fellow-workers. Moreover, on the same day that Frey made public his telegram William Green was insisting in New York that the federation was powerless to do anything except write telegrams. "I can't tell Ray what to do," he said. "It's like the President. Can he tell the governor of a state what to do?"

Ray may ultimately yield, but the total problem will remain, and other Rays will dictate their own policies for war production. They will do so as long as Green flaunts his own lack of authority. They will do so until federation leaders clean house at the top as well as at the bottom, putting pressure on international unions which retain color clauses in their constitutions and disciplining local big-shots who exclude Negroes from jobs.

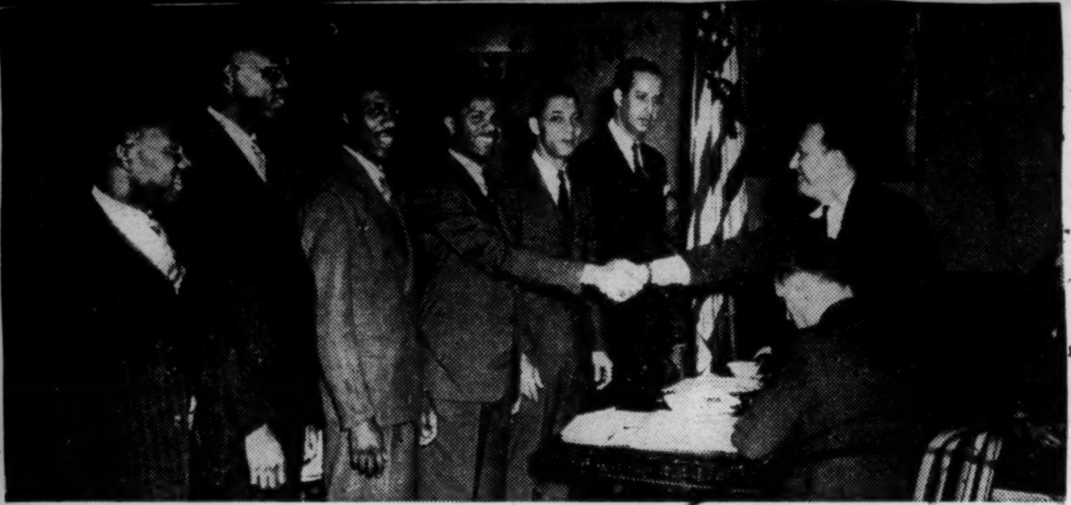
The federation's recent convention failed to meet the issue. It heard A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters—and one of two Negro delegates to the Toronto meeting—deliver his annual indictment. His bill of particulars was not new; the A. F. of L. had heard it before. Randolph cited more than ten international unions which have color clauses or "ritualistic provisions" that bar Negro workers; among them are such important units as the Machinists, the Boilermakers, and the Department of Railway Employees. He mentioned others, including the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the Plumbers, which have "unwritten laws" excluding Negroes. He described international unions as influential as the Carpenters which have no constitutional color lines but permit locals to do as they please; the locals are often pleased to draw the color line. Finally he condemned the Jim Crow units which have been created by the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks and other unions as a "compromise" solution. These "auxiliaries" permit Negroes to join, pay their dues, hold separate meetings—but deny them the right to elect delegates to national conventions.

Randolph had been heard and ignored at previous conventions; but this was the year when federation orators felt called upon to pay longer and lustier tributes to the democratic way of life and a free post-war world. This, moreover, is a time of approaching man-power shortages, when victory over our enemies requires the complete mobilization of our man-power. The federation's leaders weren't moved. They listened to Randolph and they ignored his appeal. They turned down even his minimum request—the creation of a committee to investigate cases of discrimination within the federation. Such a step, A. F. of L. leaders have always explained, would violate the ancient "autonomy" of federation unions. Moreover, a resolution adopted by the convention said, "We are doubtful whether any method other than the educational one can make the progress which is necessary." Tom Girdler used to express the same views about the Wagner Act.

Only Dan Tobin tried to make a reply; it was a dismal effort. For it was no answer to accuse Randolph of "lighting the torch of disunity," no answer to say that hundreds of A. F. of L. units welcome Negro members, no answer to say that the Teamsters have always loved the Negro worker. In effect Tobin talked like an apologist for lynching who takes pains to point out that many Negroes die natural deaths.

The Manpower Commission has stressed the urgency of increasing Negro employment in war production. In the coming months every worker—black or white, male or female—must serve in the post for which he is best fitted. This must be done whether Governor Dixon of Alabama or Tom Ray of Portland likes it or not. Labor representatives on the Manpower Commission are opposing enactment of new work-or-fight legislation and employment controls. Green has publicly pleaded for further trial of "voluntary" methods." The Negro issue is a key test. Are A. F. of L. officials prepared to open all the doors to Negroes? Are they ready to challenge international unions which cling to constitutional provisions against Negroes? Will they crack down on intransigent local officials—not via Western Union appeals but by summary dismissal or revocation of charters? "Autonomy" in the federation is sacrosanct only when its officials don't want to act. If a union local fell into the hands of avowed Nazi agents, would its "autonomy" be respected? Is Ray much above that level?

The truth is that a clean-up is neither as difficult nor as complex a process as the A. F. of L. leaders suggest. A few decisive steps in individual cases would have repercussions throughout the federation; repudiation of Jim Crow by one powerful international would put others on the spot. Instead, Tobin and other A. F. of L. chiefs have covered up for the offending unions and Woll has fashioned various profound legalisms to safeguard them.



This handshake celebrates the death of Jim Crow in one of the strictest lily-white unions in the country. W. R. Mitiguy, president of the New York branch of the Railway Mail Assn., AFL, congratulates six Negro mail clerks on their induction into the union. The color bar, in the union's national constitution for 29 years, was broken by the New York local over the protest of national officers when Atty. Gen. Bennett ruled it illegal. The clerks, left to right, are William B. Clemons, Joseph B. Greene, William Delamar, Owen H. Thompson, William Dash and Wallace Dade.

Nov. 24, 1942

Photo by Bernard Aumuller, PM

AFL Asks Union To Take Negroes

The P.M. Daily

DEC 23 1942

PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—W. D. Mahon, president of the AFL's Amalgamated Assn. of Street, Railway and Motor Coach Unions, today appealed to workers on the Washington transit lines to accept Negro employes in their ranks.

Mahon's plea was made as the Capital Transit Co., which controls this city's transportation system, announced its readiness to comply with an order from the Fair Employment Practice Committee (FEPC) calling for hiring of Negroes.

With growing tension reported among local transit workers over the race issue, Mahon wrote to J. G. Bigelow, president of the union's Washington local:

"I realize how some of your membership, being Southerners, feel on this matter, but you must take into consideration the fact that we are now engaged in a war in which the colored man is called upon to do the same line of duty that the white man is called on to do."

DEC 23 1942

Mahon stressed that "there is no difference so far as I can find out" in the accident records of Negro and white workers on transit jobs.

DEC 23 1942

Capital Transit has traditionally refused to employ Negroes on its bus and trolley system, contending that present employes would refuse to work with them. The FEPC held hearings on the question and issued a directive ordering the company to grant equal employment rights. Manpower Commissioner Paul V. McNutt personally addressed a meeting of the company's workers in an effort to balk any conflicts.

So far, no Negroes have assumed posts on the transit lines, but it is understood that training has begun.

Afro-American
Baltimore. Md.

J. C. Union Plan Exposed

PORTLAND, Ore.—An officia of the Henry J. Kaiser shipyard revealed this week that the Boilermakers' Union, AFL, has bee discussing elaborate plans to organize jim crow locals for colore workmen.

DEC 19 1942

Tom Ray, head of the union powerful Local 72, has heretofor opposed giving union status colored men under any circumstances. Nevertheless, the Re James F. Clow, pastor of th Portland Colored Baptist Church who has been active in behalf colored workmen, stated:

"They want to belong to Local 72 or none."

The jim crow local plan is the second reported here recently. The other was a reported invitation to a select group of twenty-six colored men, including Charles Merritt, New York shipyard chipper working at Vancouver, to join the union [illegible] ayment of $30 initiation fee.

DEC 19 1942

Formation of jim crow locals has been discussed for some time, the Kaiser officials stated, with plans even extending to an entire "district council" of colored locals. All discrimination against colored men in the Kaiser yards has been ended as the result of recent government pressure, it was asserted.

35i-1942
Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

BROTHERHOOD OF RED CAPS

Rules Tips Were Not Less Than Minimum Wage

Railroads Sued For $1,600,000 In Back Wages

JUN 22 1942

CHICAGO — (ANP) — Holding that the Brotherhood of Red Caps, railroad terminal employes, had failed to prove that its members received less in tips than the minimum wage standard fixed by court in 1938, Federal Judge Philip L. Sullivan last week ruled against the brotherhood which had sued the railroads for $1,600,000 in back wages and penalties, from October, 1938, to April, 1940.

JUN 22 1942

Railroads involved were the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific; Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific; Santa Fe, Chicago and North Western, New York Central and Chicago and Western Indiana. The Red Caps Brotherhood has 1,1[illegible]0 members on eight railroads.

Under the system agreed upon at the first settlement, it was explained that if red caps' tips failed to equal 30 cents an hour, the railroads are obligated to pay the difference.

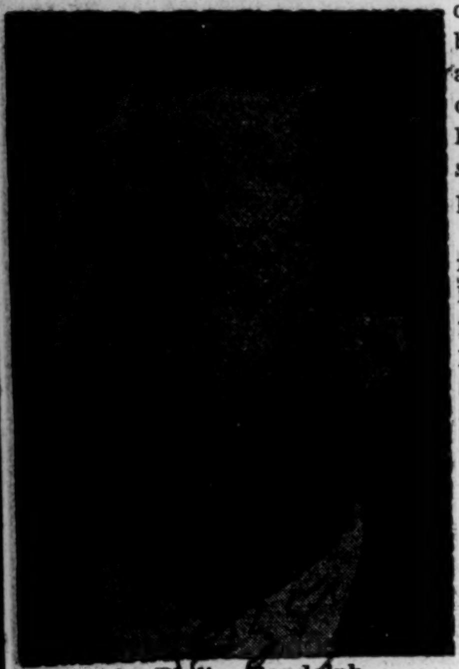
JUN 22 1942

Because of a provision in the wage and hour law permitting double recovery, the $1,600,000 sought in the suit was said to represent twice the amount which the Red Caps contended was owed them by the railroads.

The Northwest
Enterprise
Seattle, Washington

The Northwest Enterprise Nominates A. Philip Randolph America's Most Outstanding Negro For 1941

JAN 23 1942



A. Philip Randolph

In the international offices of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters in New York City, A. Philip Randolph, international president, announced that the organization had signed an agreement with the Pullman Company for an increase in pay of ten cents an hour or twenty-four dollars a month.

This will represent an increase of over two million dollars for the Pullman porters, maids, attendants, and bus boys in the Pullman vice. This group will also receive service. This group of workers will also receive $21.60 a month for ing from September to December 1st observed Mr. Randolph.

JAN 23 1942

The head of the porters' organization pointed out that various carriers with which the Brotherhood holds contracts are being signed up rather rapidly for increases in pay ranging from ten cents for the non-operating group, including chair car, parlor car, coach and buffet porters, with the back pay of nine cents an hour; also including train porters in the operating group at nine and one-half cents wage increase with the seven and one-half per cent back pay of a three month period.

It is estimated that the increase for the members of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters will run much above 2½ million dollars, stated Randolph. Mr. Randolph points to this notable achievement of collective bargaining for colored workers by the Brotherhood as indicative of a new era in the economic life of Negro workers in America.

JAN 23 1942

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

RANDOLPH ARRIVES

CALLED RADICAL BUT NOW RANKS AS FOREMOST RACE LEADER

JUL 1 1942

BY JOSEPH D. BIBB

A. PHILIP RANDOLPH has captured the attention of his own people and the consideration of a large segment of critical whites. Randolph, by virtue of his long reputation for militancy in his approach to racial problems, and because of his signal success in organizing the Pullman Porters, plus his more recent agitation against discrimination and racial proscription, has mounted to the front and now stands in the front rank of leadership among colored Americans. We will go even further than that and assert that Randolph now looms up as the most influential leader in the country.

Mr. Bibb

Since Pearl Harbor no colored American has spoken with more authority or to more people than he. We daresay that he now has a more compact following than any other figure among his people. Having adopted and pursued the "methodology of pressure technique," Randolph has been able to secure the ear and attention of the Administration. He is credited with being the creative reason and force behind the Fair Employment Practice Committee.

HE has stood the acid test of myriad temptations to "sell out" and soft pedal the grim and vital issues of present day exigencies and now he stands out pre-eminent among his contemporaries with a reputation for incorruptibility and unsullied integrity.

CHEERED [illegible] THOUSAN[illegible]

JUL 11 1942

Twenty-thousand people spontaneously stood and cheered him for five minutes in Madison Square Garden in New York a little over a fortnight ago. Fifteen thousand animated souls rose up and made the rafters ring in the Chicago Coliseum last week. There, people were not all members of his union but they represented a cross-section of the average Negro in America. Randolph holds their respect and their esteem.

NO "dignified divine" can command the following of this man. None of the important "race leaders" who carried the political torches during the presidential campaign of '42, can now control a corporal's guard. Randolph has forged to the front, verily from the loins of the people, and it is now being widely predicted that the mantle of racial leadership will be draped around his ample shoulders.

SPEAKS WITH AUTHORITY

It took the war to gain Randolph a place in the sun. When this writer a few months ago lamented the dearth and lack of square shooting leadership, he was caustically critized. Those who contemplated the existence of leadership did not include Randolph. In fact the noble sons who were cited were those who had achieved and accomplished but they had not risen high enough among the rank and file of the people to be deemed capable or responsib[illegible] speak for thirtee[illegible]illion people. Randolph has.

JUL 1 1942

THE National Association For The Advancement Of Colored People has placed its stamp of approval on this new leader and he is now the recipient of the much vaunted Spingarn Medal. We remember when he was co-editor of the Messenger Magazine, that he was deemed too radical and headstrong to merit consideration, when he was a student at the Rand School of Social Sciences he was dubbed a Red and stigmatized by members of his own race as being a dangerous person. What was deemed as radicalism twenty years ago has now been ingrained into the social philosophy of the American people. Randolph now speaks with authority.

TO CONTINUE PROTESTS

His threat to march on Washington with a hundred thousand Negroes protesting against racial discriminations and humiliations is now being hailed as a proper thing to do by hundreds of thousands of Colored Americans. Randolph says that the Negro people would be better off exterminated rather than to submit to present proscriptions. He says that he proposes to protest and "he does not give a damn what happens." His position is strikingly different from that taken by the so-called leaders of yesterday. Hail Randolph!

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR PORTERS HOLDS THIRD BIENNIAL CONVENTION

SEP 6 1942

NEW YORK CITY, Sept. 3—It was announced at the headquarters of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, New York City, by the international president, A. Philip Randolph, that the third biennial convention of this union will be held in St. Louis, Mo., in the People's Finance building, September 13 through the 19. Delegates will be in attendance at this convention from the seventy or more local divisions, including sleeping car porters, chair car porters, train and coach porters who are employed by the Pullman company, the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific railroad, the Soo Line, the Missouri Pacific, the Texas & Pacific, the Frisco, the Southern Pacific, the Missouri, Kansas & Topeka, the Alton, the Illinois Central, the I.N.G., the Atlantic Coast Line, the L & N, the Seaboard Air Line, and a number of others.

SEP 6 1942

The Brotherhood, an international union affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, recently purchased $25,000 of war defense bonds from the government.

SEP 6 1942

At this convention the delegates will legislate on matters involving the post-war status of porters, attendants and maids in the railway industry and will select delegates to the next annual convention of the American Federation of Labor which will be held in Toronto, Canada, in October.

During the time the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters holds its convention, the International Ladies' Auxiliary to the Brotherhood whose international president is Mrs. Halena Wilson, will hold its second biennial convention in St. Louis. These will be the largest conventions the Brotherhood and its auxiliary have held in the history of the movement, states Mr. Randolph.

SEP 6 1942

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Reelected President Of Porters

OCT 2 - 1942

Brotherhood 100 Per Cent United Nations

OCT 2 - 1942

ST. LOUIS. — A Philip Randolph, who was reelected president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters at the third biennial convention held here last week, condemned pro-Japanese activties reported among a few Negroes.

Commenting upon the rounding up and imprisonment of 82 Negroes in Chicago last week—and some Negroes in New York—and other sections by the F.B.I., for pro-Japanese activities, Randolph, stated that he had no sympathy for Negroes who are put into jail for being used as spies or for any activities in the interest of Japan.

Pro-Japs Are Ignorant

"Any Negro who thinks the Negro people have anything to gain by the victory of Japan in this war, is hopelessly dumb, ignorant and ridiculous, and is living in a "fool's paradise," said Mr. Randolph, who is also director of the March-on-Washington movement.

OCT 2 - 1942

"Japan," he continued, "is an imperial nation which suppresses free speech, free assembly, free press and the right of organization and collective bargaining of the workers among its own people in Japan. What on earth can Negroes hope to get from a power-hungry, war-mad, arrogant nation like Japan, I cannot see.

"Of course, these Negroes who were preaching the cause of Japan are pure fanatics or evidently believe they are going to get some money from Japan.

"In the first and final analysis, the Negroes' interests in America are tied up with the interests of America. If America goes down, Negroes go down. If America survives, Negroes will survive; if, of course, they have the guts to fight to survive. Negroes want their democratic rights within and under the flag of the United States of America, not under the rule of Hirohito of Japan or Hitler of Germany.

OCT 2 - 1942

Must Back America

"Negroes must fight to save America because they have fought and worked for a quarter of a thousand years to help make it what it is, and they don't propose to let anybody lick America, or run Negroes out of America, or deny Negroes their rights in America, and get away with it," stated Randolph.

"This is why Negroes must fight to wipe out discrimination, segregation and jim crow in the armed forces, the government and defense industry,—now, during the war and not wait until it is over.

"The Negroes task is not to fight for Japan who will oppress and exploit them as quickly and as ruthlessly as they do the Chinese, but to fight for America and themselves in America," concluded Mr. Randolph.

The convention just ended was the largest in the history of the Porters' Union which was born 17 years ago in New York City, stated international officers at the headquarters of the Convention in the Finance Building, 11 North Jefferson street, St. Louis.

All of the incumbent officials were reelected.

OCT 2 - 1942

Back United Nations

..**The convention. .backed the**

The convention backed the fight of the United Nations against the Axis Powers, and demanded that Negroes continue the fight for their democratic rights at home during the war.

Negro workers and the Negro masses were urged to organize to advance and defend their rights in the post-War world.

Resolutions endorsed the March On Washington Movement; the fight of India for independency; the Fair Employment Practice Committee, calling for its restoration to complete independence with responsibility to the President; the abolition of discrimination in the armed forces, the Government and defense industry. "The officers and members of the Brotherhood were urged to put 10 percent of their wages into Government Defense Bonds," said International President Randolph.

OCT 2 - 1942

The convention adopted a program for a nation-wide organization drive.

The Ladies' Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters held its Convention during the same week under the leadership of Mrs. Helena Wilson of Chicago.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

RANDOLPH GOES TO CANADA TO ORGANIZE PORTERS

NEW YORK CITY, Nov. 5—It was learned at the international headquarters of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters in New York City that A. Philip Randolph, international president, and Bennie Smith, second international vice-president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters had left for Canada the latter part of October to organize the sleeping car porters of Toronto, Montreal, Calgary, Vancouver, and Winnipeg into the Brotherhood. These porters are employed by the Canadian Pacific Railroad.

NOV 5 - 1942

Following the organization of this group, plans are set to take in the porters of the Canadian National, said Mr. Randolph. The two railroad systems employ nearly a thousand men.

BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR PORTERS

351-1942
Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Randolph Elected 17th Time By Porters' Third Convention

OCT 3 - 1942

OCT 3 - 1942

ST. LOUIS—The third biennial convention of ~~the~~ Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters ~~closed~~ at the end of ~~last~~ week in St. Louis, Mo. "~~It was~~ the largest in the history of the porters' union, which was born 17 years ago in New York City," stated international officers at convention headquarters. A. Philip Randolph and all incumbent officials were reelected.

The convention backed the fight of the United Nations against the axis powers and demanded that Negroes continue the fight for their democratic rights at home during the war.

Negro workers and the Negro ~~masses were~~ urged to organize to advance and defend their rights in the post-War world.

Resolutions endorsed the March On Washington Movement, the fight of India for independence, the Fair Employment Practice Committee, calling for its restoration to complete independence, with responsibility to the President; the abolition of discrimination in the armed forces, the government and defense industry. "Officers and members of the brotherhood were urged to put 10% of their wages into defense bonds," said International President Randolph.

OC 1942

The Ladies' Auxiliary to the brotherhood held its Convention simultaneously under the leadership of Helena Wilson of Chicago.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

We'll Remain in and Fight, Randolph Declares After Negro Snub at Convention

OCT 24 1942

OCT 24 1942

Rejects Nation-wide Pressure for Union to Quit and Join C.I.O. Group

Disregarding country-wide pressure demanding the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters withdrawal from the prejudice-ridden American Federation of Labor, A. Philip Randolph told the Star News that the Brotherhood intended to "stay in the AFL and fight."

Mr. Randolph, who was questioned on his return from the Federation's 62nd annual convention in Toronto last week, pointed out that the AFL was a railroad union and it was to the best advantage of workers in that field to keep their affiliation there.

Urges CIO Powers

On the other hand, those who favor the Brotherhood's withdrawal assert that the United Transport Service Employees Union is a CIO affiliate, dealing with the same agencies controlling railway employees under whose jurisdiction the Brotherhood operates.

OCT 24 1942

As at previous conventions, Randolph assailed race discrimination and Jim Crow practices, declaring that, "The American Federation of Labor cannot say it is democratic unless it cleans its house and says that regardless of race, color, and creed, any worker can join the AFL union—and that any union which does not have this spirit of democracy will be expelled."

Citing the urgency of mobilizing manpower in the war emergency, he blasted the International Machinists, the Boilermakers and others of being guilty of "color clauses."

OCT 24 1942

Carpenters Assailed

Other brotherhoods that took a tongue lashing from the leader of the Sleeping Car Porters included the Carpenters Union which bars Negro members. Randolph cited a recent instance where a local in Texas barred Negroes from working on a housing project for Negroes because white workers threatened to strike if they were employed.

Having no answers, AFL chiefs listened to his speech in silence and adopted a week-kneed resolution, sections of which follow

"We are doubtful whether an other method than the educational one can make the progres that is necessary, for our experience has been that where compulsory methods are applied, prejudices are increased instead (diminished.

There's No Greater Evil Than Hitler

"The Courier-Journal"

Louisville, Ky

Sometimes we wonder if people who talk like A. PHILIP RANDOLPH, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, ever read ADOLF HITLER's *Mein Kampf*, the following passage for instance:

> From time to time it is demonstrated to the German petty *bourgeois* in illustrated periodicals that for the first time here or there a Negro has become a lawyer, teacher, even clergyman, or even a leading opera tenor or something of that kind. . . . It does not dawn upon this depraved *bourgeois* world that here one has actually to do with a sin against all reason; that it is a criminal absurdity to train a born half-ape until one believes a lawyer has been made of him, while millions of members of the highest culture race have to remain in entirely unworthy positions; that it is a sin against the will of the eternal Creator to let hundreds and hundreds of His most talented beings degenerate into the proletarian swamp of today, while Hottentots and Zulu Kaffirs are trained for intellectual vocations. For it is training, exactly as that of the poodle, and not a scientific "education." The same trouble and care, applied to intelligent races, would fit each individual a thousand times better for the same achievements.

December 18, 1942

Mr. RANDOLPH has just said in Cleveland: "If the war does not achieve racial, economic, political and social equality for the Negro and all of the dark races, it will have been fought in vain and will only lead to a more terrible war." Very obviously the war is not going to achieve racial, economic, political and social equality for the Negro if HITLER wins it. And very obviously HITLER's only chance of winning it would lie in our disunity. "No other country has so many social and racial tensions," Dr. GOEBBELS has said. "We shall be able to play on many strings there."

The alternatives are about the same for all of us, no matter what our color. On the one side we face HITLER and worse catastrophe than we have ever dreamed of. On the other side we fight for a system that moves toward an ideal—moves slowly and sometimes painfully, yet moves. For one thing, the system will not abolish poverty for white or black overnight. For another, it will not abolish overnight the discriminations from which the Negro has suffered. But it does allow for a steady process of amelioration there, and that process can be quickened as white and black make common cause with each other in the war or impeded to the extent that each—as extremists on both sides do—sees in the other a greater evil than HITLER.

35i-1942 CALIFORNIA

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

White Longshoremen Warned by CIO for Refusing Jobs With Negro

JUN 6 1942

LOS ANGELES, Calif. Accused of non-democratic action because they refused to work with two colored longshoremen, two white union workers were given a spanking by the union, a CIO affiliate, this week. They were warned that a repetition of their action would result in their dismissal from the union.

A resolution was offered before the executive board of Local 13 of the Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union by Harry Bridges, condemning the action of these two white men. The board warned them against further discrimination.

The men were ordered to work with the colored men or to get out of the union.

JUN 6 1942

351-1942

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Committee Formed To Strike At Prejudice

OCT 3 - 1942

OCT 3 - 1942

3-51

WASHINGTON, D.C., Oct. 1—An outstanding step of the Congress of Industrial Organizations in its last executive board meeting was the establishment of a national CIO Committee to Abolish Racial Discrimination. The committee is composed of Willard S. Townsend, president of the United Transport Service Employes of America, and James B. Carey, CIO national secretary-treasurer.

At the meeting, the board adopted a resolution again calling on the United States government to move strongly against discrimination in war jobs, which is postponing victory in World War II in that it is robbing American defense industry of hundreds of thousands of efficient workers.

OCT 3 - 1942

FOUR RECOMMENDATIONS

The CIO Committee to Abolish Racial Discrimination, in its report to the body at its executive board meeting here, recommended (1) preparation of a bill for Federal enactment to establish Executive Order 8802 (Fair Employment Practices) as permanent legislation with power to enforce its decisions; (2) institution of a concerted drive to push passage of anti-poll tax legislation; (3) stress to all CIO members through international, locals, city and state councils, the necessity of their following democratic principles in the unions, on their jobs, and in their community life; this through their union education departments; (4) and beginning of a scientific study of the reasons for and the methods of discrimination, to be utilized in preparation of a CIO post war plan—such a study to encompass all phases of our economic life.

Six steps were suggested for the education work, among these suggestions being forums, surveys, pamphlets, newspaper publicity, and so forth.

OCT 3 - 1942

AIRS AIMS, PURPOSES

The purpose of the committee, its members concluded, would be (1) to insure economic protection to minority groups through utilization of all instrumentalities available to trade union movement: (2) to explore the reasons and causes of discriminations against minority and racial groups in America and institute corrective measures at the roots; (3) to assist in implementing the Four Freedoms as proclaimed in the Atlantic Charter by removing discrimination from our American life; and (4) to bring about a greater participation on the part of the Negro in the labor movement, in order that they (Negroes) may assist in meeting the responsibilities of a union membership and thereby draw the Negro communities closer to the labor movement.

CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

First CIO Contract Brings Mississippi's People Hope

Daily Worker

3-51

By Art Shields

(Daily Worker Staff Correspondent)

GREENVILLE, Miss., Nov. 26.—"Hope is coming to the people of this low land of orrow at last," said a Negro cotton mill workers' leader as he showed me the first CIO contract ever signed in Mississippi industrial plants.

This charter of industrial freedom is the dawn of a new day.

It was signed last week in this Delta cotton town at the very moment that Senators Bilbo and Doxey were boasting that they were winning their filibuster to keep the masses from voting.

It was signed by the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers' Union, which the Negro workers of Greenville had summoned to town.

N.Y.D.W.

GOT TOGETHER

These disfranchised and poverty stricken people had gotten together first before they called the CIO in.

Bilbo and Doxey have thundered that the Old South of Jefferson Davis' own state would always remain in the Old South that is a land of low wages, few votes and as little organization as possible.

But Bilbo and Doxey didn't reckon with the people, They didn't reckon, for instance, with the literate Negro people I met in Greenville, who studied Department of Labor literature on collective bargaining rights and began talking of a union.

And while they were talking they met a former fellow worker from their mills who had gotten a job in Little Rock, Ark., with the same Southern Cotton Oil Co. that he had worked for in Greenville.

Home for a visit he told about higher wages, seniority protection and vacations with pay that give workers the right to confer with the boss without threat of discharge.

ACTED AT ONCE

The Mississippi Delta workers acted at once. They called meetings in the Fraternal Societies Hall in the Negro part of the town. They wrote a United Cannery and Agricultural Workers' organizer that they wanted to see him. And they sent in preliminary dues as evidence of good faith.

Nov. 27, 1942

That was in September. A lockout followed in November and one of the bosses once made wild threats to kill a Negro leader. I have sen the sworn statement the worker made. But the workers won a Labor Board election by more than 100 to 1 in two mills and last week the bosses sat down with Otis Nation, international representative of the CIO union, and signed the first CIO industrial contract ever inked in this state.

And now CIO talk is rising in the many cotton oil mills, cotton compresses and huge lumber plants of this state.

It is rising in Laurel, Miss., the state's big lumber town, near which two Negro children were lynched earlier this year.

White and Negro workers, who came to the towns from their share cropper tracts, are talking CIO.

And the Mississippi River boatmen and Mississippi River longshoremen felt good, for they wanted CIO four years before the factory workers started.

KNOW ITS MEANING

They know what they've gained. Down in Vicksburg white and Negro longshoremen tell of the dark ages before the union came, when they worked night and day for a pittance an hour.

Old longshoremen swear that back in 1926 they once worked through from Monday to Saturday without going home to rest, stealing a few minutes of sleep when the boss wasn't looking, and that wasn't often.

They got about 25 cents a hour and plenty of cursing.

Now the boss talks nice to the grievance committees and pays more than twice as much straight time, and time and a half and double pay overtime.

River boatmen gained most of all. A deckhand gets $115 a month instead of $47.50 in 1937 and he gets seven and a half days vacation a month to compensate for his 12-hour day.

Organized CIO workers are leading the fight for the poll tax repeal. Vicksburg NMU members have bombarded Washington with wires for the Pepper bill's passage, says T. P. Shelock, port delelgate, and Greenville cotton mill workers have voiced their feelings against the vote tax in letters to their international union.

Changes are coming in Jefferson Davis' State.

PLEASS KELLOGG

"The Worker

35a

Here's Looking at
Pleass Kellogg

New York NY

By HOWARD LAWRENCE

CHICAGO.

WHEN the ~~CIO~~ organizing drive hit the open-shop International Harvester Company's tractor plant in 1937, the fifth worker to sign a CIO card was Pleass Kellogg, a Negro, who had been at that time an industrial truck driver for 12 years.

Officials of the United Farm Equipment and Metal Workers of America give Kellogg credit for organizing the 900 Negro workers in the plant alongside the 2,500 white workers.

Modest to the point of shyness, this middle-aged Negro worker had given much thought to the problems of the workers of his people.

Nov. 29, 1942

FOR THE first three years of the growth of his local union, Kellogg served as vice-president, elected by both white and black workers in recognition of his consistency as a fighter for better conditions and for equal rights for the Negroes in the plant. Now after 17 years in the plant, he is a full-time field representative for the union.

"For years there was talk about organizing a free union," declared Kellogg. "Many secret meetings were held. All this laid the groundwork for the CIO. The Negro workers waited eagerly for the CIO to come."

THE NORTH AFRICAN offensive of the AEF is being discussed by Negro workers in the union hall and on street corners,

"In fact, the African doings are the chief discussion," Kellogg said. "They see our boys fighting for the liberation of the darker people of Africa from colonial slavery. I know that the enthusiasm being shown will result in greater production—and that goes for the white workers, too.

"Our union has been 100 per cent for a second front in Europe and full support to the President for producing all the necessary arms to win the war."

KELLOGG was co-chairman of the Labor Victory Committee in the 1st Congressional District. This committee included AFL, CIO, church and white civic leaders who endorsed McKeough, Adamowski and Wm. Dawson, the latter elected to Congress Nov. 3 from the district.

"Dawson was for the second front," Kellogg explained. "Now we have a Negro congressman who has already spoken clearly on the big issue of winning the war."

Kellogg lives in the black belt of Chicago's South Side with his wife and daughter.

"As a Negro labor leader, I felt it my duty to spend a great deal of time and energy in the election campaign," said Kellogg. "That's how we carried on our fight for ending the poll tax, which keeps both Negroes and poor whites from voting in the South."

ESPECIALLY proud is Kellogg of his work for ending discrimination on war jobs.

For a long time he was chairman of the local union's Fair Employment Practices Committee, which forced the company to break a tradition over 100 years old. Negroes formerly were hired only for certain jobs considered inferior.

A Negro could never win a promotion. The CIO ended that.

"The FEPC still has to fight for practically every promotion," Kellogg asserted. "We have frequent meetings with the management. At the beginning management claimed it would cause ill feelings between the white and black workers if Negroes were given better jobs.

"We replied that the union is made up of black and white and so is the committee and that the union and the committee wanted discrimination to end."

Nov. 29, 1942

THE CONTRACT with the company calls for no discrimination regardless of race, creed, color or political affiliation.

"The union is making progress in enforcing this clause," Kellogg said with pride.

Before the Chicago Industrial Union Council was chartered, the CIO unions set up a committee to fight discrimination begun at the new Buick plant erected in Melrose Park to make airplane engines on war orders.

The committee succeeded in getting the company to hire 21 Negroes, Jews and others who were refused jobs after they passed examinations. Pleass Kellogg was a member of that committee and his face beams when he tells of the success achieved.

"We broke down that practice at Buick's before it really got started," he said.

"You know how the Negroes feel about the union? It's the greatest thing that happened to the black people of America since the Emancipation Proclamation.

"They see in the union a force to bring them out of the depths of poverty and despair, up to better wages, a chance to work at all trades, to live where they want to out of the segregated slums, where the right to breath fresh air in the home is taxed heavily by excessive rents."

The union has made the Negro people see that their problems and those of the white people are basically the same.

"The way our union is run, the black man is convinced," Kellogg said. "Now we see the need for unity of black and white to win this war for our common good."

351-1942

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Work Together, Phillip Murray Tells Audience

SEP 28 1942

Many Negroes Hear Speakers At Auditorium

By CLIFF MACKAY
(WORLD Managing Editor)

SEP 28 1942

Governor-Elect Ellis B. Arnall went on record Sunday as being against bigotry, demogoguery and racial hatred in his first major address since his overwhelming defeat of Governor Eugene Talmadge, whose, platfrom was based on the "preservation of white supremacy."

Mr. Arnall's liberal declaration of principle came Sunday afternoon when he brought greetings from the state to President Phillip Murray of the Gongress of Industrial Organizations, who was the principal speaker at a mammoth meeting in the Municipal Auditorium.

"My greatest ambition," asserted the 35-year-old governor-elect, "is to see that all groups, irrespective of creed, of color or of religion, receive fair and decent treatment from the government under which they live." SEP 28 1942

"The people of Georgia," he continued, "have clearly demonstrated they are against any one who would pit creed against creed, class against class or race against race in this great empire of the South."

"This war is teaching us," he concluded," that we are all Americans."

Mayor William B. Hartsfield, who brought greetings to the national leader just before the governor-elect spoke, declared that "Atlanta owes its greatness and rapid growth to its humanitarian tolerance." SEP 28 1942

WELCOMES ALL

"Our city welcomes all who can contribute to its welfare, regardless of their creed, their race or their religion," he asserted in welcoming Mr. Murray to the city.

The principal speaker was introduced by Ralph McGill, editor of the Atlanta Constitution, who characterized Mr. Murray as a living example of everything that American tradition has stood for.

The CIO, Mr. Murray asserted is a "bread and butter union that deals with the fundamental things necessary to the improvement of the economic welfare of its members."

Calling on his hearers, to just not talk unity in these critical times, but start practicing it, the CIO president, whose organization has done more than any other toward integrating Negroes into the industrial life of the nation, declared that "for Americans to be free in every sense we have got to work together and we have to pull together.

"Discontinue the practice of pushing that fellow away, saying that he doesn't belong. We can't win that way. We need his help. We must start taking steps to bring him a little closer. Unity can't be just talk. It also means action.

SEP 28 1942

WORK TOGETHER

"We simply cannot win this war unless every segment of the population is working together to smash the forces of evil that are abroad in the world today."

The speaker recalled his experiences when three years before he had gone to Washington with the proposal for closer cooperation between labor and management. At that time, he asserted the idea was frowned upon as being "socialistic" and some church leaders went so far as to contend it was "communistic."

But today, he asserted with pride, the same idea is now being used by the War Production Board in setting up labor-management committees in practically every plant now working on war contracts.

Carrying out its national policy of welcoming Negro workers within its ranks, as contrasted to the discriminatory attitude of some AFL unions, the CIO meeting was unique in the fact that Negroes in the audience were given seats on the main floor as well as in the first balcony. SEP 28 1942

Several Negro members of CIO unions, who are not organized into separate locals as is the case with the AFL, were seen in the audience. Workers from local steel plants, construction workers and workers from the old Chevrolet plant, now working on war contracts, were present.

Charles H. Gillman, Georgia director of the CIO, served as chairman of the meeting. Mr. Arnall was introduced by John Pachall, editor of the Atlanta Journal, while the Rev. Edward G. Mackay, district superintendent of the Methodist Church offered invocation.

In addition to the mayor and governor-elect greetings were extended by the Right Reverend Monsignor T. James McNamara, rector, Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Savannah; Frank H. Neely, regional director War Production Board and H. Carl Wolf, president of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce.

The Rev. John Moore Walker, pastor, St. Lukes Episcopal Church and bishop-elect of the diocese of North Georgia pronounced benediction.

A large number of distinguished Georgians, leader in the governmental, educational, religious and industrial life of the state were platform guests at the meeting. No Negro leaders, however, were invited to the platform.

Several Negro CIO officials from Birmingham, Chattanooga, Nashville and other nearby industrial centers were present at the meeting.

Dr. Charles A. Sheldon, Jr., city organist gave a brief recital preceding the speaking. John B. Hoffman led the audience in song.

CI

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

WILLARD TOWNSEND Nov. 21, 1942

Addressing the annual CIO convention in Boston, he called for an all-out fight against discrimination, which was approved in a resolution unanimously passed. Townsend is president of the United Transport Service Employes union and only Negro member of the CIO national executive board. The AFL has none.

Form New CIO Domestics' Union

The Chicago Bee

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 10—Organization of the second CIO Domestic Workers' Union local with 75 members, both white and colored domestics, occurred Friday night when the meeting finally got under way after receiving congratulatory messages from Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and other prominent persons.

Dec. 13, 1942

Mrs. Jean Brown, organizer, and Miss Rosa Burrell, vice-president of the Baltimore local, addressed the meeting. Following a pattern set by the Baltimore local, standards of an eight-hour day, forty-eight hours weekly for workers and no Sunday work for union members, were the objectives of the meeting.

James E. Barris of the United Cafeteria Workers, CIO, pledged the whole-hearted support of his organization. Dec. 13. 1942

..There was no discussion of the minimum wage, which had been previously set at $14 per week. Due to the fact that many domestics now receive stipends in excess of this minimum, the particular point was not discussed.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, PA.

CIO Confab Maps All-Out Fight On Racial Barriers

Nov. 21, 1940

By HORACE R. CAYTON
Labor Editor

BOSTON, Mass., Nov. 19—"It isn't my object to come to this body this afternoon and plead for the rights of the Negro," said Willard S. Townsend, president of the United Transportation Employees of America, before the fiifth annual convention of the Congress of Industrial Organizations in the Statler Hotel in Boston.

"If you think more of your prejudices," continued Townsend, "than you do of your freedom, then, by all that is holy, you will lose that freedom."

President Philip Murray of the CIO further said to the 500 delegates:

"The fate of our nation must necessarily comprehend complete abolition of all forms of racial discrimination."

KEYNOTE MESSAGES

These two speeches indicated the tone of the convention, which made unprecedented commitments to the Negro and for abolition of racial prejudice in industry.

Four significant actions of the convention indicated the extent to which an "all-out" fight against prejudice and bigotry was a central theme of the convention.

It was unequivocally stated that, on a number of occasions, any labor unity between the CIO and the AFL would have to have as one of its prerequisites abolition of race prejudice in both organizations.

BELATED ATTACK

Murray, the first day of the convention, indicated the convention would take a stand on this question. It was not, however, until Tuesday, when the discussion of the non-discrimination resolution was introduced, that the delegates had a field day on race prejudice.

After the speeches by President Willard Townsend, Ferdinand Smith of the National Maritime Union, Walter Reuther of the United Automobile Workers, there could be no question but that the Negro had come into a new day and was receiving a recognition he had hitherto never obtained even from the Congress.

But later, there was a debate on the Labor Unity Resolution which provided:

"Unity should assume that all forms and practices of racial discrimination within unions be abolished." At long last, the verbal, and perhaps oratorical, promise of Philip Murray before the United Auto Workers' convention in Chicago some months ago was reduced to writing, in a form which would bind Murray, the international officers and the executive committee by being unanimously passed.

TAKES SAME STAND AS COURIER

The anti-discrimination clause went further in stating the policy of the convention than had any previous resolution. Following the precedent set by the United Auto Workers' convention, the delegates committed themselves to a similar position for labor as that advocated by The Pittsburgh Courier for Negroes. The resolution stated in part:

"We of the democracies are fighting Fascism at home and abroad and we are welding all races, all religions, and all peoples in a united body of warriors for democracy. Any discriminatory practices within our ranks against Negroes or other groups directly aids the enemy by creating division, dissension and confusion."

Following this resolution which held the floor over an hour and a half, John Yancey, secretary-treasurer of the United Transport Service; President Philip Murray, Van A. Bittner of the United Steel Workers' organization, Walter Reuther, member of the exeeutive board of the United Automobile Workers; Ferdinand Smith of the United Maritime Workers, and Willard Townsend spoke at length.

EXECUTIVE APPROVAL

The appointment of a committee for abolition of racial prejudice in the CIO and in industry was made some months ago. Members of this committee will now be able to act as they have the full endorsement and approval of the executive board.

The boaord consists of James B. Carey, chairman of the CIO and a liberal in its ranks; Willard S. Townsend, the militant and fighting president of UTSEA; Ferdinand Smith, international officer of the NMU which has made such a splendid record in race relations; Boyd Wilson, special assistant to Murray in race relations in United Steel, and James Leary, secretary and treasurer of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers.

Negroes shared in an unprecedented fashion in the policy-forming bodies of the convention. Townsend was a member of the powerful resolutions committee and it can safely be said that the clause on the abolition of racial discrimination as a prerequisite for labor unity was due almost entirely to his efforts in the preconvention discussion of this resolution.

HAVE VOICE

In contrast to government, industry, and the armed forces, it is only in the ranks of labor that Negroes are finding a method of expressing their wants and expectations and through this medium it would be possible to influence to an extent the policies of those sections of the society from which he is excluded except as puppets to carry out orders. Ferdinand Smith was a member of the Rules and Order of Business committee, and John Yancy was a member of the Constitution committee. All these men serve not only the cause of the Negro but made definite contributions to the respective committees with which they work.

FIFTEEN NEGROES

There were fifteen Negro delegates, among whom were Charles Brown of Omaha, Nebraska, from the Packing Workers' Industrial Union; Richard Bancroft of Washington, from the United Federal Workers of America; Rose Burrell of Baltimore, from the newly formed Domestic Service Workers' Union; Moses Lee of East St. Louis from the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers; Leonard Simpson of New York from the United Sugar Workers, and Noah Walter, New York, of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers.

A number of visitors were also present, including W. Richard Carter, member of the international executive board of the Shipbuilders of America; Boyd L. Wilson, international representative and assistant to Murray in steel, and Oscar Wilson of the Packing House Workers.

Names Negroes On Three Most Important Coms.

The Informer
Houston, Tex.
Nov. 21, 1942

BOSTON—(A N P)—Jim Crowism and the injection of racial prejudices into labor union activity must be eliminated, declared Philip Murray, president, in his address to 500 delegates assembled here fr the fifth annual CIO convention.

Fate of Nation At Stake

"The fate of our nation is at stake," warned Murray " and I think it is wise to remember that any kind of unity must necessarily comprehend complete abolition of all forms of racial discrimination.

"A great, unified, concentrated organizing campaign to organize the unorganized millions must be prosecuted—can be prosecuted—and will be prosecuted—so that industrial democracy will stride ahead with political democracy as the great irresistible force of a free people fighting to make a free world."

Murray followed up his speech by naming Negro delegates to the three most important committees concerned with the convention's business.

Willard S. Townsend, president of the United Transport Service Employees union and a member of the executive board of the CIO, was named a member of the resolutions committee. John L. Yancey, was appointed to the constitution committee, and Ferdinand Smith, secretary-treasurer of the National Maritime union, won a place on the rules and orders committee.

15 Colored Delegates

In sharp contrast to the American Federation of Labor convention in Ontario, Canada, recently where only two Negro delegates were in attendance, the Congress of Industrial Organizations opened with 15 colored delegates.

Negro delegates present represented all the members of the union to which they belonged, a departure from the system in the AFL where the two Negro delegates represent only members of a jim crowed union.

For the first time in the history of the convention Miss Rose Burrell, of Baltimore, represented a union of domestic workers.

"We expect to have a chater in the near future," she said, "and when that is obtained we intend to start with the job of organizing the country's 5,000,000 (colored and white) women household workers.

Metal Workers Chose CIO In 3-to-1 Vote

The Chicago Bee
12/13/42

By a vote of almost three to one the employees of Magnus Metal company chose the C. I. O. over the A. F. of L. in the recent election. The majority of the workers in the plant were Negro workers.

The Magnus Metal company is part of a big metal trust, The National Lead Company.

A year ago because of confusion and false promises on the part of the management the workers chose A. F. of L. However, after a year's experience with the A. F. of L., the workers were convinced that their best interest would be served in the C. I. O.

In charge of the campaign which was centered around the C. I. O. anti-discrimination and win-the-war program, was International Representative of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, Ishmael P. Flory, assisted by Benny Banks, president of Local 738 of the organization.

351-1942

CIO

Lewis vs. CIO

Courier

INTERNECINE STRUGGLE IN LABOR MAY DOOM USEFULNESS OF CIO

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

Pittsburgh Penn.

FEB 7 - 1942

ALL that glitters is not gold, and believe me when I says that the so-called unity in the labor movement is only skin deep. The trouble is that the struggle for power within the CIO which this column has been talking about for the past couple of months, is just now reaching a head where it may break out in open warfare.

Mr. Cayton

I think that most of his former staunch admirers will admit that John L. Lewis has made a botch of things. Starting with the momentous meeting of the United Mine Workers in Columbus, Ohio, when he tried to force the rank and file to vote against Roosevelt, continuing through his defeat at the recent C.I.O. convention, and terminating in the back door manipulations which he and Brother Hutchinson of the Carpenters' Union tried to pull off, Lewis has succeeded in isolating himself from the progressive labor movement in the country. Some say, with a great deal of evidence, that he is a "wrong guy." But in writing this rather critical eulogy to him as a progressive labor leader, I would like, in passing, to hand him a bouquet or two on the part of Negro labor for his momentous feat in organizing the CIO and abolishing racial discrimination to a large extent in that body, and for his victory in the case of the southern wage differentials. But, definitely, Lewis is through "for the duration" or if he isn't, he should be. Lewis has the possibility, now, of becoming a very dangerous man.

FEB 7 - 1942

MURRAY PURGES LEWIS' HENCHMEN

In going over Phil Murray's head and trying to pull a coup to take the leadership of the American labor movement, Lewis did give Phil Murray his freedom from the emotional bonds which had held them together for years and the fact that Murray after all was one of his vice-presidents in the United Mine Workers. Murray at last could strike back openly at his former chief, which he did in the press. More than that, Murray instituted a purge within the unions of the CIO which he and the progressives control, to eliminate Lewis' men.

JUST RECENTLY John L. Mayo, a United Mine Workers' organizer who had been in charge of the Steel Workers' Organizing Committee in the Youngstown area, was fired. He had held that position since 1937. This column predicts that in all the CIO unions except those controlled by Lewis—the United Mine Workers and the United Construction Organizing Committee—Lewis' men are going to get the axe. Further, as predicted some time ago, there is going to be a real struggle within the United Mine Workers for the Lewis' faction to maintain control.

FEB 7 - 1942

DISPUTE WILL BENEFIT RACE

But Lewis and his lieutenants are not taking it quietly. It seems as if the man never knows when to give up and after suffering defeat after defeat, he is still plugging away. In the Chicago area, for example, Brother Denny Lewis of the United Construction Workers' Organizing Committee is organizing everything from packinghouse workers to textile employes. The Lewises have hired a lot of high paid organizers and told them to go ahead and get the men regardless of jurisdiction. This in the long run must lead to a fraticidal war within the CIO.

IN EVERY situation the Negro must orient himself to social realities in terms of the fact that he is a black man in a white world. Just what effect will this conflict have upon him? In the long run, given a union with a decent racial ideology, labor unity for black workers is highly desirable. But that principle suggests something that we have never achieved in this country and it seems unlikely to achieve in the near future. Take it or leave it the Negro worker has always benefited by disputes within the ranks of organized labor.

STRUGGLE MAY DOOM CIO

FEB 7 - 1942

At the present time in Chicago more Negro organizers have been hired by Denny Lewis and the salary payroll has been raised. These colored organizers, attached to the United Construction Workers' Organizing Committee, have been instructed to organize all of the non-organization Negroes, and even told to canvass the possibilities of establishing unions in the department and chain stores in the Negro communities.

ALL OF THIS is grist in the Negroes mill. For years they have been overlooked and those that have been neglected both by the AFL and the CIO will receive the attention of this rump organization which is violating all the codes of jurisdictional division in order to get man power. But there is a danger and it is a great one and it is one which we cannot overlook even though certain immediate gains are forthcoming. That danger is that Lewis and the Lewis' forces may so disrupt the CIO, may cause such a disastrous warfare within that body, that they, in their bid for power, may destroy the labor movement itself.

TWO NEGROES ON CIO BOARD

Pittsburgh Courier

Pittsburgh, Penn

CHICAGO, March 5—(ANP)—At the meeting of the Chicago Industrial council here last Thursday night, two Negroes were elected to posts on the executive board of the organization. The Chicago Industrial council is made up of more than 200,000 CIO members in Chicago.

MAR 7 - 1942

This action by the council saw Pleass Kellogg, one of the founders and member of Local 101 of the United Farm equipment, elected as one of three trustees; and Ishmael P. Flory, field representative of the National Association of Die Casting workers, take a seat on the executive board.

New Masses
New York, N. Y.

Labor on the Way

FEB 1 0 1942

OFFSPRING of the national AFL-CIO Labor Victory Board have already appeared in local and state form. They may not bear the parent name and some antedate the formal establishment of the national board, but they have the common genesis of a desire for closer labor unity and for cooperation with the government and industry in maximum war production. From California, New Jersey, Illinois, among other states, come reports of a get-together movement which has gone well beyond preliminaries. And another phase of unity, inestimably important, is reflected in the fact that for the first time the AFL International Association of Machinists has let down its racial bars by admitting three Negroes into the local at Lockheed-Vega Aircraft. In addition, the men in the shops plan for production with a will and ingenuity that should inspire emulation. In Pittsburgh the locals of the CIO United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers have had one of their "victory plans" adopted and have formulated four others. Workers at the Otis Steel Plant in Cleveland instigated a "Scrap Week" for the collection of junked metal to make the pig iron which goes into steel. More than 100 tons were collected the first day.

FEB 1 0 1942

Of these two instances—and they are two of many—the latter has extra meaning in that it contrasts with an outstanding example of slowdown through profiteering. We refer to the evidence presented by Philip Murray to Donald Nelson on the truth behind the scrap shortage. A six-month investigation by the Steel Workers Organizing Committee, of which Murray is chairman, revealed that some of the biggest steel industrialists collaborated with brokers to raise prices by promoting a "shortage scare." This ugly scheme may cost the nation some 8,500,000 tons of steel in 1942. Further, as Murray points out, the serious situation that now exists in steel could have been averted entirely if the SWOC plan for organizing production had been adopted. A labor-industry council was part of that plan. Such councils are needed in other industries besides steel. Labor must be fully, actively represented in industrial planning, in government councils, and in the

Cabinet—wherever production policies are formulated. That is the way to total realization of America's potential war output.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

St. Louis CIO Sets Up Negro Job Committee

Daily Worker

N.Y.N.Y.

SEP 1 - 1942

(Special to the Daily Worker)

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 31. — A public hearing on discrimination against Negroes in industries here and interviews with employers to seek production jobs for Negroes are the two cardinal points of a program announced by the newly formed CIO Fair Employment Practices Committee.

The Committee was set up by the central CIO body in a resolution introduced by Small Arms Local 825, United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America.

"This is a war problem," the committee announced, "and the CIO unions of St. Louis are eager to assure Negro workers their share of the war work being done in this important war manufacturing center."

SEP 1 - 1942

Pointing out that many employers have denied Negroes their economic and federally-guaranteed rights to such jobs, the committee declared that this was a clear violation of President Roosevelt's mandate.

Date for the public hearing will be announced in the near future. The CIO Committee plans to make the hearing a sounding board against discrimination by inviting city, state and federal officials, employers, union officers, officials of Negro organizations and other interested groups to testify.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

THE CIO AND THE NEGRO WORKER

MAR 14 1942

THE CONGRESS of Industrial Organizations, through its director of publicity, Len DeCaux, has gotten out a pamphlet on The CIO and The Negro Worker, in which the position of this branch of organized labor sets forth its principle of organizing all workers without distinction, and of fighting for fair and equal treatment for all alike. It tells of the CIO opposition to employment policies that bar Negroes, and to any and all forms of discrimination between workers based on race, creed, color or nationality.

The CIO policy of fighting for equal treatment, equal wages and equal opportunity for Negro workers has benefited both white and colored alike, and greatly increased the strength of the whole labor movement. Before the CIO was started in 1935, there were only 125,000 Negro unionists; now there are more than 500,000, many of them local and national leaders of their respective unions.

Mr. DeCaux rightly points out in an editorial in The CIO News that in order to increase our national health and fighting strength, was as a nation must pnt aside racial discrimination and oppression. The morale of the workers behind the lines is as important as that of those on the firing lines.

"Now that we are at war, the whole program in respect to Negro workers assumes more vital importance than ever before. For it is a program not only for social justice but also for national unity and victory over Hitler's Axis and all the oppression for which it stands." the editorial concludes.

We hope that this pamphlet will be widely distributed, not only in labor circles but also among employer groups whose policy in the past has not been so liberal.

Negro Workers: Negro workers are being hired for skilled jobs in shipyards and other defense plants throughout the country—jobs and industries formerly closed to Negro workers. Here a Negro at the Newport News ways does a skilled job—one of the many complicated machinery operations involved in the production of ships for our two-ocean navy. Recently on the West Coast Negroes won a long battle for employment in the shipyards. A drydock company in New Jersey last week hired twelve Negroes in skilled positions. Prior to that time none had been employed. Of 7,000 employed at a North Carolina shipbuilding yard, 2,000 are Negroes. And in Ohio, a shipbuilding company uses Negro welders.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro - White Unity Marks WPB Talks

MAR 26 1942

SPEED URGED

By Rob F. Hall

(Special to the Daily Worker)

BIRMINGHAM, March 25.—"The number of trained men and weapons we can deliver at the front will determine the outcome of the war," Eli Oliver, Personal Representative of Donald Nelson told an enthusiastic meeting of 350 labor and management delegates at a conference held here today under auspices of War Production Board.

To applause of delegates, Oliver said: "The decisive battles will be fought not in Australia or Libya, but in the last strongholds of our enemy, Tokio and Berlin."

This statement was made to emphasize that maximum production is needed in order that the United Nations can match the Axis at its strongest points.

APRIL 1 DEADLINE

The message of Oliver and his associates, labor and industrial consultants, was to proceed immediately to the establishment of war production committees in every plant and mine, with April 1 set as date for achievement of this goal.

The function of these committees is to increase the speed, quality and volume of the output, they said. Many concrete proposals were put forward, including systematic competitions between departments, plants and areas.

The use of bulletin boards and score boards was emphasized. "We are going to have heroes on the production line as well as on the front line. . . . And we want to know who they are, so they can be suitably rewarded," Mr. Oliver said.

It is the job of the committees to remove all obstacles that stand in the way of production, he said. If the local committees cannot iron out the problems, they should appeal to Washington without delay.

QUICK ACTION URGED

A CIO delegate reported that in one plant, 25 boilermakers and riggers were forced to stand idle because material was not made available by the company under contract to supply it.

"Don't write us about that. Get on the telephone or wire us immediately," said Oliver. Committees were urged to notify Washington of threatened shortages in material before the actual shortage occurred.

An SWOC delegate from Fairfield Steel Mills reported that he and his members were working only three days a week. "We don't like it," he said. "We don't feel like we are doing our part for our country."

Oliver pointed out that the Fairfield committee should get to work at once to get to the root of this problem and solve it.

TRIBUTE TO NEGROES

Among the delegates were twenty Negro ore and coal miners and steel workers. Donald Comer, textile manufacturer, paid special tribute to them and said: "We will never forget that Negro soldiers stand between our families and the enemy."

Hartford Knight, prominent Negro unionist, international representative of UMWA, pointed out that Negro workers are being denied jobs in war production plants. Delegates were assured that special committee of WPB was investigating.

However, the unity of the conference which was held in ballroom of Tutwiler Hotel, was marred at adjournment. As Negro delegates left, they were tapped on the shoulder by a hotel attendant who instructed them to exit by the back door and were forced to ride in rattle-trap freight elevator.

White union delegates who learned of this later were indignant and representatives of the Smelter Workers Union were reported sending vigorous protests to Nelson and Oliver. Jesse Doster, Negro international representative of the Smelter Union said: "They may not let us go through the front door of the Tutwiler Hotel, but we will be in the front line of production and in the front line of the battlefields."

Meanwhile, shipyard worker delegates who came from Mobile to attend the conference, are looking forward to a special conference on their problems promised by Oliver. They reported a critical situation in Mobile Yards with many unnecessary delays which the workers are anxious to remedy.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

C. I. O. SETS UP STUDY OF NEGRO IN INDUSTRY

AUG 21 1942

Discrimination Against Minorities Called Blight on U. S.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20—A committee was appointed today by Philip Murray, president of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, to investigate and study the problem of equality of opportunity for Negro workers in industry.

Members are James B. Carey, C. I. O. secretary, and Willard S. Townsend, president of the United Transport Service Employes of America and first Negro member of the C. I. O. board.

A joint statement by Mr. Carey and Mr. Townsend said:

"Discrimination against Negroes and other minority groups has always been a blight and a paradox in this democracy, the very existence of which is based on a declaration that 'all men are created free and equal.'

"Since its inception, the C. I. O. has vigorously opposed racial bias and intolerance.

"The war has taught many Americans a long-needed lesson: that a divided nation cannot stand up against the Axis, that a solid unity of all the people is a vital necessity if we are to preserve and amplify our American democracy against its foes at home and abroad."

CIO

351-1942
Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

The Voice Selects As The Most Important Question of the Week:

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Is the Auto Workers Union of the CIO Justified in Compelling its Members to Work with Negroes Under Threat of Expulsion?

Pro:

Hubert T. Delaney
Commissioner of Taxes
New York City

Yes. Until the masses of workers—black and white alike, realize that they have the common cause of poverty to combat and overcome, and until they realize that they cannot overcome poverty until all working people understand that by accepting wage differentials, discrimination and segregation, they play into the hands of the economic royalists who would enslave both the white and the black worker alike, there can be no hope of raising the standard of living for the masses of the people. The malevolent industrialist is today using race hatred, class hatred, job hatred and wage differentials to divide all workers. Black and white workers play into the hands of such industrialists when they accept this bait which in effect makes them fight like dogs over a bone while the industrialist runs away with the meat. White workers ought to realize their jobs are not secure so long as they can be pitted against black workers. Black workers cannot help being strike-breakers unless they are admitted to unions on a basis equal to that of any other worker because workers must have jobs to live. White workers must learn that there are no such things as white jobs and Negro jobs, but that jobs are essential to the existence of all workers. Workers cannot make effective their demands on malevolent industrialists without complete solidarity in labor's ranks.

Con:

Frances Kraft Reckling
Music Shop Proprietor
New York City

No. Freedom of action resulting from the effort to understand is more democratic and progressive than coercion. Force, under any circumstances, tends to cause friction and usually manages to defeat its own purpose. A rigid rule should be exercised in all fields where workmen are employed, that capability and workmanship be stressed, not race. A worthy suggestion is that the CIO and other organizaions, from the head man down to the least significant worker, should be exposed to a simple course in social relationships. It would be of great value in establishing a common ground on which most human beings could meet. In this wartime setup there is no place for petty opinions formed because of pitiable narrowness of view, and the success of the whole defense program lies in a "oneness" of purpose which necessitates a harmonic association between all workers and Americans whose work is vital to the armed forces... In a true democracy a man has the privilege of conforming with the policies of the organization with which he is associated or, as an alternative, leaving his job. Forcing a man out of the union because of his viewpoint will not solve the CIO's problem.

JUL 4 1942

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

Two Colored Vice Presidents Chosen by CIO

The workers in the Congress of Industrial Organizations following their progressive policy, loosened further, the wedge of discrimination between the Negro and white workers in the recent CIO state convention by electing two Negroes to the vice presidency of the state CIO.

They are Lee Christian of the International Woodworkers and Joe Walker of the United Steelworkers. Both are from Memphis.

Christian is a pioneer leader in the CIO in Memphis, having led one of the first successful all Negro strikes in the South. He is also treasurer of the Memphis CIO Industrial Union Council. Joe Walker is a member of the council and a leader in the I. C. Railroad local in Memphis.

This is truly a great victory for the workers and particularly the Negro workers. The wedge which is driven deeply between the two races has kept both under the yoke of economic slavery for many years. But today, under the leadership of the CIO, the wedge of discrimination is being knocked out, and the workers are uniting rapidly into an organization in which an injury to one is an injury to all, regardless of race, creed or color, in order that we might establish the real democracy that we are fighting for.

JUL 3 1942

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Again The C. I. O. Moves To Crush The Color Bar Against Workers

JIM CROW was struck a solid blow down South last week when the C. I. O. in Tennessee elected two colored men as members of the executive committee.

That is a step forward for labor. There are indications which prove that organized labor is taking a realistic view of America's color problem.

It is our considered judgment that organized labor can do as much, if not more, than any other segment of our population to break down the bars which keep colored workers out of shop and factory.

The leaders in organized labor, especially the C.I.O., understand that so long as any class of workers is not included within their ranks their efforts for complete victory will not succeed. When all workers understand that fact victory for the workers of America will be swift and certain.

JUN 20 1942

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

LABOR AND INDUSTRY

By GEORGE F. McCRAY for ANP

"DOES PHIL MURRAY HAVE THE RIGHT SLANT ON THE NEGRO QUESTION?"

While I was attending the constitutional convention of the Steel Workers Organizing committee in Cleveland during the week of May 8, Negro delegates from all over the country constantly asked me: "Where does Murray stand on the race question? Is Murray's record in dealing with Negroes as good as that of John L. Lewis?" Of course, not all of the questions were framed in this manner, but they meant substantially the same thing.

JUN 1942

Beyond doubt these questions have been in the minds of thousands of Negroes inside and outside of the labor movement ever since Murray ascended to the position vacated by John Lewis. Now, since Murray is beyond doubt, one of the most powerful men in the country today, and since he is the recognized leader of unions having jurisdiction over thousands of Negro workers, the importance of this question is obvious. Frankly, it should have been answered long ago.

"WHAT IS THE NEGRO QUESTION?"

In the labor movement it can be said that a union leader has a correct attitude on the Negro issue if he believes in and is willing to do the following things:

1. Extend or grant the privileges and advantages of union organization to all workers, Negroes as well as white. This includes the acceptance of Negroes as union officials and representatives on the basis of their abilities.
2. Recognize the fact that there is a Negro question or issue or race problem, or what have you, in industry and in unions combined with a willingness to do something specific about it.
3. Willingness to employ the social, political and economic power of organized labor to improve the status of Negro workers in the United States not only in opposition to our traditional home-grown fascists, but also against international fascism.

The latter point is particularly important. There can be no security and equality for Negroes in a world dominated by Hitler, Hirohito, or Mussolini. These murderers regard all Negroes, even the Uncle Toms, as sub-human beasts.

MURRAY NEEDS PRESS AGENT

JUN 14 1942

Phil Murray, not being the expert showman that Lewis is, has so far failed to dramatize his attitude on the Negro question. However, on the basis of evidence I picked up around Cleveland, the "guy" seems to be O. K.

Under Murray's administration, was published one of the very best statements ever formulated on the problem of Negro and white worker cooperation in the labor movement. The statement that white labor nor Negro labor can progress without good fellowship and cooperation with each other, is the central theme of a pamphlet: "The CIO and the Negro Worker" now being distributed by the thousands over the United States.

NEW CONSTITUTION O. K.

The new constitution adopted by the United Steelworkers of America is definitely a Murray document. During the convention he was its most effective and eloquent defender. And at a time when so many Negro defense workers are kept out of defense jobs because of exclusion clauses in the constitutions and rituals of some labor organizations, welcome indeed is the declaration in the constitution of the steel workers union that it is their "purpose to unite . . . regardless of race, creed, color, or nationality, all workers and workmen . . . ."

Another constitutional provision giving Murray power to appoint field organizers and representatives, instead of having them elected by local districts as are district directors, put many Negro delegates at their ease. Since an organizer's job both in the south and the north quite frequently is mainly one of convincing and educating Negro and white workers that they should discard their prejudices, organizers will hesitate to challenge the prejudices of white workers if the organizers are elected by the workers whom they are to educate.

JUN 14 1942

SELECTION OF NEGRO INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Another indication of the Murray attitude is the manner in which he received suggestions from a delegation of Negroes that a Negro should be elevated to some outstanding position in the union. Murray quickly accepted the idea and decided to appoint a Negro to represent the international president with full authority to act. He even went so far as to say that it is recognition to which the Negro worker is justly entitled and would be a demonstration of the genuine interest he and the union have in the progress of the Negro worker.

Other delegates pointed out that eight of the 50 odd Negro delegates attending the convention were organizers drawing salaries which place them well up into the better paid fifth of the United States population.

How Far! How Far!

When a Negro delegate from Canton, O., complained to Murray that the Auditorium hotel had failed to admit him, Murray explained that there was little he could do about it. The union had gotten assurances from the hotel in which the convention headquarters were located that Negroes would be treated as other guests. In all fairness, Hotel Hollenden where convention headquarters were located treated all delegates alike. After explaining this situation Murray said, "Now brother. what else can I do?" The brother in question had no suggestion.

From all this there is one conclusion to be drawn. Murray is trying hard to face the race issue in a manner which would reflect credit upon any good American. I personally don't think he is sure of himself yet. However, I feel certain he would welcome the helpful advice of Negroes on this point.

White CIO Organizer 'Clubbed' For Trying ToStart Colored Unit

"The Informer"
Houston, Tex.

AUG 22 1942

PORT ARTHUR.—The alleged constant brutality and threats of chief of police A. H. Baker and his staff on the lives and security of C. I. O. organizers have resulted in the union securing an injunction against the chief for personal safety, and in the citizens of the town forming an anti-Baker campaign which may overthrow the present form of city-manager government, according to statements made by F. H. Mitchell, and C. I. O. organizers to Informer reporters. Chief Baker, it appeared, opposed the organization of Negro oil workers here.

Conflict between C. I. O. organizers and the chief of police dates as far back as February when Mitchell started his organizing campaign here among Negro oil workers. Because of inherent difficulties the true story of police attacks on the organizers have been withheld from the Negro reading public.

Mitchell's Story

"On the afternoon of February 11, after leaving the Texas Company, I went to the headquarters of Local 23," Mitchell said.

"When I arrived at Local 23, I was told that Alex Joseph, president of Local 254, Negro organization, had been there looking for me. I sensed that it was important and went to Joseph's house for a conference. . . . We set out then to find Jack Jones, whom I had never met, secretary of the Negro organization. The three of us discussed union affairs and activities in a package house. We talked about 30 minutes. While talking a crowd of colored men gathered around but none participated in the discussion. The two colored men and I discussed discrimination in industry and several things important to the welfare of the colored people. When we finished our conversation I moved closer to the cash register and Jones and Joseph discussed membership cards. My back was slightly turned to the door. I noticed three white men coming in but paid no attention to them. Then I heard one say:

" 'Just who in the g—— d—— h—— are you any way?'

"I thought he was talking to somebody else. I looked back and he hit me in the face and said:

" 'Where did you come from? What are you doing here? Who are you working for? and what are you doing over here with these g—— d—— n——rs? Don't you know we aint going to have you organizing these g—— d—— n——rs?'

"With my lips bursted and badly bleeding they hustled me out of the store into a car. It was Menschue and Hammond who carried me out and chief of Police Baker who hit me, I learned later."

Ordered Out of Town

"On the way to jail I was bleeding profusely and one of the officers threatened to kill me if I bled in his car. They wouldn't permit me to see a doctor, nor my children who were at home alone as my wife was away, nor would they allow me to use the telephone. After getting to jail one of the officers said:

" 'All we can promise you is an escort out of town. You can go back to some d—— foreign country where you came from.'

"I was born in Oklahoma and that made me plenty angry. But I knew they would kill me if I made the least attempt to defend myself. The next morning, instead of being able to see a doctor as I had hoped, I was greeted by Chief Detective Guilbeau who took my finger prints and gave me 24 hours to get out of Port Arthur. I was feeling bad as both my lower and upper lips were cut wide open and I was suffering from a serious back injury as a result of the beating they gave me. I managed to stay in town and I have been able to do some organizing among the Negroes here. We had to get an injunction to stay here to do it but we were determined to fight it out and see that the colored people get justice," he concluded.

Detective Assaults Negro Youth

Rufus Chatman, a member of the National Maritime Union (CIO) is another victim of the Baker law enforcing body. The attack came about after a provocative question was put to Chapman by a white man in charge of collecting money for a juke box, at the Tip Top Inn. When Chatman refused to be pushed around by the juke box jerker the white man left and returned with Detective Guilbeau who ordered Chatman to the back of the place and gave him a beating, breaking his glasses. Chatman, with witnesses, immediately reported the incident to his Union. The Union took the affair up with the Chief of Police who stated that he would take the matter up with Detective Guilbeau and promised to pay for the glasses.

I nthe meantime Detective Guilbeau visited Chatman's mother and warned her against permitting her son to make a case out of this assault. With assurances from the CIO, Mrs. Chatman stood her ground.

Admits Detective Was Wrong

The pay off came when the Chief admitted that the Police Department had exceeded its authority by promptly paying the bill for the repair of his glasses.

According to reliable information, Port Arthur citizens are fed up with Chief Baker, who was thrust upon them by the City-Manager form of government. It is alleged that Baker was defeated in his re-election campaign but was appointed to the position by the city-manager.

Anti-Baker meetings have been scheduled by civic clubs throughout the city. It is believed by many observers here that the citizens will not accept Baker's resignation nor the firing of the present Chief but will be satisfied only with necessary changes that will prevent further incidents of the kind that permitted Baker to become Chief of Police.

AUG 22 1942

of this question is obvious. Frankly, it should have been answered long ago.

"WHAT IS THE NEGRO QUESTION?"

In the labor movement it can be said that a union leader has a correct attitude on the Negro issue if he believes in and is willing to do the following things:

1. Extend or grant the privileges and advantages of union organization to all workers, Negroes as well as white. This includes the acceptance of Negroes as union officials and representatives on the basis of their abilities.

2. Recognize the fact that there is a Negro question or issue or race problem, or what have you, in industry and in unions combined with a willingness to do something specific about it.

3. Willingness to employ the social, political and economic power of organized labor to improve the status of Negro workers in the United States not only in opposition to our traditional home-grown fascists, but also against international fascism.

The latter point is particularly important. There can be no security and equality for Negroes in a world dominated by Hitler, Hirohito, or Mussolini. These murderers regard all Negroes, even the Uncle Toms, as sub-human beasts.

MURRAY NEEDS PRESS AGENT

JUN 14 1942

Phil Murray, not being the expert showman that Lewis is, has so far failed to dramatize his attitude on the Negro question. However, on the basis of evidence I picked up around Cleveland, the "guy" seems to be O. K.

Under Murray's administration, was published one of the very best statements ever formulated on the problem of Negro and white worker cooperation in the labor movement. The statement that white labor nor Negro labor can progress without good fellowship and cooperation with each other, is the central theme of a pamphlet: "The CIO and the Negro Worker" now being distributed by the thousands over the United States.

NEW CONSTITUTION O. K.

The new constitution adopted by the United Steelworkers of America is definitely a Murray document. During the convention he was its most effective and eloquent defender. And at a time when so many Negro defense workers are kept out of defense jobs because of exclusion clauses in the constitutions and rituals of some labor organizations, welcome indeed is the declaration in the constitution of the steel workers union that it is their "purpose to unite . . . regardless of race, creed, color, or nationality, all workers and workmen . . . ."

Another constitutional provision giving Murray power to appoint field organizers and representatives, instead of having them elected by local districts as are district directors, put many Negro delegates at their ease. Since an organizer's job both in the south and the north quite frequently is mainly one of convincing and educating Negro and white workers that they should discard their prejudices, organizers will hesitate to challenge the prejudices of white workers if the organizers are elected by the workers whom they are to educate.

JUN 14 1942

SELECTION OF NEGRO INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Another indication of the Murray attitude is the manner in which he received suggestions from a delegation of Negroes that a Negro should be elevated to some outstanding position in the union. Murray quickly accepted the idea and decided to appoint a Negro to represent the international president with full authority to act. He even went so far as to say that it is recognition to which the Negro worker is justly entitled and would be a demonstration of the genuine interest he and the union have in the progress of the Negro worker.

Other delegates pointed out that eight of the 50 odd Negro delegates attending the convention were organizers drawing salaries which place them well up into the better paid fifth of the United States population.

How Far! How Far!

When a Negro delegate from Canton, O., complained to Murray that the Auditorium hotel had failed to admit him, Murray explained that there was little he could do about it. The union had gotten assurances from the hotel in which the convention headquarters were located that Negroes would be treated as other guests. In all fairness, Hotel Hollenden where convention headquarters were located treated all delegates alike. After explaining this situation Murray said, "Now brother. what else can I do?" The brother in question had no suggestion.

From all this there is one conclusion to be drawn. Murray is trying hard to face the race issue in a manner which would reflect credit upon any good American. I personally don't think he is sure of himself yet. However, I feel certain he would welcome the helpful advice of Negroes on this point.

White CIO Organizer 'Clubbed' For Trying ToStart Colored Unit

The Informer
Houston, Tex.

AUG 22 1942

PORT ARTHUR.—The alleged constant brutality and threats of chief of police A. H. Baker and his staff on the lives and security of C. I. O. organizers have resulted in the union securing an injunction against the chief for personal safety and in the citizens of the town forming an anti-Baker campaign which may overthrow the present form of city-manager government according to statements made by F. H. Mitchell, and C. I. O. organizers to Informer reporters. Chief Baker, it appeared, opposed the organization of Negro oil workers here.

Conflict between C. I. O. organizers and the chief of police dates as far back as February when Mitchell started his organizing campaign here among Negro oil workers. Because of inherent difficulties the true story of police attacks on the organizers have been withheld from the Negro reading public.

AUG 22 1942

Mitchell's Story

"On the afternoon of February 11, after leaving the Texas Company, I went to the headquarters of Local 23," Mitchell said.

"When I arrived at Local 23, I was told that Alex Joseph, president of Local 254, Negro organization, had been there looking for me. I sensed that it was important and went to Joseph's house for a conference. . . . We set out then to find Jack Jones, whom I had never met, secretary of the Negro organization. The three of us discussed union affairs and activities in a package house. We talked about 30 minutes. While talking a crowd of colored men gathered around but none participated in the discussion. The two colored men and I discussed discrimination in industry and several things important to the welfare of the colored people. When we finished our conversation I moved closer to the cash register and Jones and Joseph discussed membership cards. My back was slightly turned to the door. I noticed three white men coming in but paid no attention to them. Then I heard one say:

"'Just who in the g—— d—— h—— are you any way?'

"I thought he was talking to somebody else. I looked back and he hit me in the face and said:

"'Where did you come from? What are you doing here? Who are you working for? and what are you doing over here with these g—— d—— n——rs? Don't you know we aint going to have you organizing these g—— d—— n——rs?'

"With my lips bursted and badly bleeding they hustled me out of the store into a car. It was Menschue and Hammond who carried me out and chief of Police Baker who hit me, I learned later."

Ordered Out of Town

"On the way to jail I was bleeding profusely and one of the officers threatened to kill me if I bled in his car. They wouldn't permit me to see a doctor, nor my children who were at home alone as my wife was away, nor would they allow me to use the telephone. After getting to jail one of the officers said:

"'All we can promise you is an escort out of town. You can go back to some d—— foreign country where you came from.'

"I was born in Oklahoma and that made me plenty angry. But I knew they would kill me if I made the least attempt to defend myself. The next morning, instead of being able to see a doctor as I had hoped, I was greeted by Chief Detective Guilbeau who took my finger prints and gave me 24 hours to get out of Port Arthur. I was feeling bad as both my lower and upper lips were cut wide open and I was suffering from a serious back injury as a result of the beating they gave me. I managed to stay in town and I have been able to do some organizing among the Negroes here. We had to get an injunction to stay here to do it but we were determined to fight it out and see that the colored people get justice," he concluded.

Detective Assaults Negro Youth

Rufus Chatman, a member of the National Maritime Union (CIO) is another victim of the Baker law enforcing body. The attack came about after a provocative question was put to Chapman by a white man in charge of collecting money for a juke box, at the Tip Top Inn. When Chatman refused to be pushed around by the juke box jerker the white man left and returned with Detective Guilbeau who ordered Chatman to the back of the place and gave him a beating, breaking his glasses. Chatman, with witnesses, immediately reported the incident to his Union. The Union took the affair up with the Chief of Police who stated that he would take the matter up with Detective Guilbeau and promised to pay for the glasses.

I nthe meantime Detective Guilbeau visited Chatman's mother and warned her against permitting her son to make a case out of this assault. With assurances from the CIO, Mrs. Chatman stood her ground.

Admits Detective Was Wrong

The pay off came when the Chief admitted that the Police Department had exceeded its authority by promptly paying the bill for the repair of his glasses.

According to reliable information, Port Arthur citizens are fed up with Chief Baker, who was thrust upon them by the City-Manager form of government. It is alleged that Baker was defeated in his re-election campaign but was appointed to the position by the city-manager.

Anti-Baker meetings have been scheduled by civic clubs throughout the city. It is believed by many observers here that the citizens will not accept Baker's resignation nor the firing of the present Chief but will be satisfied only with necessary changes that will prevent further incidents of the kind that permitted Baker to become Chief of Police.

35 i -1942
Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

CIO Group to Study Problem of Workers

SEP 18 1942

WASHINGTON. — President Philip Murray of the CIO has announced appointment of a CIO committee to investigate and study the entire problem of equality of opportunity for Negro workers in American industry.

Named to the committee were James B. Carey, secretary of the CIO; and Willard S. Townsend, president of the United Transport Service Employes of America, a CIO affiliate with headquarters in Chicago. Townsend is the first Negro member of the CIO executive board.

President Murray instructed the committee to report on its investigation to the next meeting of the CIO's general executive board.

SEP 18 1942

In announcing the survey, Murray reiterated the CIO's affirmative stand against anti-Negro discrimination as a danger to American democracy, especially in war time. Mr. Murray is a member of the Fair Employment Practices Committee with John Brophy serving as alternate member.

SEP 18 1942

Carey and Townsend issued the following statement in connection with their survey:

"Discrimination against Negroes and other minority groups has always been a blight and a paradox in this democracy, the very existence of which is based on a declaration that 'all men are created free and equal.'

"Since its inception, the CIO has vigorously opposed racial bias and intolerance. The constitution of the CIO expressly outlaws membership barriers based on differences of nationality or race. In every national CIO convention, and in hundreds of regional and local meetings, members of the CIO have indicated their opposition to discrimination.

SEP 18 1942

"It is the intention of this committee to make a thorough investigation of race relations among the workers of this country, and of the employment practices of industry in general. We know that passing resolutions in conventions is not enough. The CIO once again javes the way in seeking to break down those barriers that separate the estrange groups of American citizens and deprive minorities of their constitutional rights. We anticipate that the CIO will set an affirmative course of action on the basis of our report to the General Executive Board."

CIO

Chicago Delegates Cite Issues Before CIO Convention

The Worker
N.Y., N.Y.
NOV 8 - 1942

(Special to The Worker)

CHICAGO.—Principal issues to come before the CIO Boston convention, as seen by Chicago delegates, will be:

1. Opening of a second front now for a quick victory over Hitler.

NOV 8 - 1942

2. A centralized overall economic plan, along the lines of the Tolan Bill.

35i

3. Action to broaden the employment of Negroes in war industry.

4. Greater representation of labor in the war apparatus.

WILLARD S. TOWNSEND

That the second front should be a major problem of the national CIO convention to Chicago delegates is not surprising, as the Chicago and Illinois Industrial Union Councils have passed second front now resolutions unanimously.

"Our international convention was all-out for an immediate second front in Europe," declared Grant Oakes, president of the United Farm Equipment and Meta Workers of America.

Oakes and Gerald Fielde, international secretary-treasurer, are the Chicago UFEMWA delegates.

"With the largest unions in war industry on record for an immediate second front, this CIO national convention," said Fielde. "can give some of the public prodding of which Willkie spoke."

Ernest De Maio, international vice-president, United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, asserted that experience has shown that a planned war economy is needed quickly.

"The Tolan Committee has given us a great deal of information on the manpower problems that fit in with our union experiences," said De Maio.

NOV 8 - 1942

"The CIO convention will, without doubt, approve the work of the Tolan Committee which calls for nifying the manpower problems of he armed forces, war industry and ar farming."

The special problem of manpower eated by discrimination against egroes, barring them from war os, will be brought before the conntion by a number of delegates, luding two from Chicago, Willard S. Townsend, president, and John L. Yancey, secretary-treasurer, of the United Transport Service Employes of America.

Townsend, who is on the convention resolutions committee, said his union would introduce a special resolution on the Negro question. He would also give the Tolan Bill now before Congress, special study to see how discrimination of all kinds is dealt with.

"I look forward to a progressive convention that will help win the war," Townsend declared.

"To give government war boards of every description a greater democratic character," said Herbert March, vice-president and delegate of the Chicago Industrial Union Council, "labor must be given considerably more representation than at present."

NOV 8 - 1942

The CIO convention would deal with this problem, placing the views of more than five million unionists before the administration, March asserted.

Pastor Lauds CIO For Fight On Jim Crow

Daily Worker

(Special to the Daily Worker)

N.Y., N.Y.

TROY, N. Y., Nov. 13.—To the CIO is due most of the credit for breaking down discriminations against Negroes in the ranks of American labor, said Rev. James F. Robinson, pastor of the Church of the Master, speaking before an anniversary dinner of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People here Thursday night.

35i

Nov. 14, 1942

"A few unions in the AFL silk stocking aristocracy preserve the barriers against Negroes. American labor must realize that it can't afford to continue this, for as Karl Marx said, white labor cannot be free as long as black labor remains enslaved," said Mr. Robinson.

The Jim Crow practices of the U. S. Navy, only recently and partially lifted, have no historical precedent, said Rev. Mr. Robinson, pointing out that Farragut depended upon Negro gunners at Mobile Bay as Admiral Dewey did upon Negro officers at Manila Bay, and early pictures show Negroes in Commodore Perry's crew.

"Democracy is on trial," he said. "The lynchings in Mississipi have been broadcast from Berlin and Tokio. If South America is to believe in North American democracy, we must use the strategy of making democracy work while it is on trial."

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

CIO Beats Negro Scabs. Whites Work Unharmed

OCT 31 1942

Negro Women Who Attempt to Cross Cigar Workers' Picket Line Are Forced to Get Police Protection While White Women Cross Freely.

OCT 31 1942

According to an article in the New Orleans Sentinel, by-lined by John E. Rousseay, Jr., the CIO Cigar Worker's Union is using strong arm methods to prevent Negro women workers to cross a picket line freely and unmolestel.

Negro women workers are forced to hire taxicabs, automobiles and seek police protection while white women workers are allowed to pass freely, according to the article.

The article cited an instance where one woman was beaten severely but refused to give her story to the writer because of fear of further reprisals.

OCT 31 1942

Rousseay stated that the CIO issued a statement to the effect that "strong arm methods should not be used against white women strikebreakers as the situation of white women being beaten would cause trouble in New Orleans."

The article said:

"During this week it was noticed that it is necessary for Negro strike breakers to have once protection but white strikebreakers were not molested or threatened and needed no police escort. Negro strikebreakers, it was noted, are forced to hire automobiles and taxicabs and in some cases have a policeman ride with them. The whites, it was also noted, walk freely from the plant to the street car or bus lines without interference.

OCT 31 1942

"One woman strikebreaker residing in the 1700 block on North Derbigny stret was severely beaten last week and when reporters called on her for a picture and a story she refused to answer the door bell, apparently fearing further mistreatment at the hands of strikers. On Friday, it was reliably reported that a taxicab driver hauling a load of strikebreakers from the plant was followed by a group of strikers in an automobile who threatened him. In order to get rid of his pursuers, it is reliably reported, the driver found it necessary to go to police headquarters and get protection.

"The ultimate outcome of such tactics, it is felt, will be the losing of the strike for the union and the discrimination of Negro labor in the plant. 'While Negro strikebreakers are chased and threatened for (scabbing) and nothing is done against whites, Negroes will soon be discouraged and we will only be able to stand by and watch white people taking our jobs,' one striker said ruefully.

"Oldtimers in the cigar-making business declare that the Trelles company started years ago with the owner being the only white person in the plant. Side by side with Negroes he worked, they declare, on the benches, wrapping and packing until the company prospered. During later years, they say, the Trelles company was one of the few to hire Negroes and several types of pressure was put on the firm by influential white persons in an effort to have it discharge its Negro labor.

"It is charged by the Cigar Workers' Union that the Trelles Company officials violated the contract by locking them out when they were supposed to negotiate. Several weeks ago, the union charged, employees reported for work and found themselves locked out. The plant reopened recently, union representatives say, and non-union labor or "The T's Union," was used.

Peoples' Voice
New York, N. Y.

CIO Convention in Boston Plans Discrimination Attack

BOSTON—The Congress of Industrial Organizations, meeting here in convention this week, has called for international unity of labor, peace between the CIO and AFL and strengthening of the labor movement as a whole as a vital step in successful prosecution of the war. These were the major points in the opening report of President Philip Murray Monday.

NOV 14 1942

Attending the convention are Negro delegates representing unions from every section of the country. Over 500 have been checked in up to Tuesday, with Ferdinand Smith, National Maritime Union (NMU) executive, among those playing a conspicuous part in helping in the formulation of a future policy for CIO.

Among the delegates also is a woman from Baltimore representing and seeking a charter for the CIO's first domestic workers' union.

MEMBERS PRESENT

NOV 14 1942

President Willard Townsend of the United Transport Service Employes of America (UTSEA) and member of the CIO executive committee is expected to play an important part in a session scheduled for Thursday when the question of setting up a special committee to fight race discrimination comes up. On hand for this also will be Noah Walters, Amalgamated Clothing Workers union official.

Attracting considerable attention and already regarded a strong possibility for leadership in CIO circles is W. Richard Carter of Bay City, Mich. He is delegate from and executive board member of the Marine and Shipbuilders union.

Among visitors here was Ira De A. Reid, Atlanta University sociologist who left Tuesday evening after reportedly making a survey for educational purposes.

Among the actions slated to be taken by the convention but most of which were due to become official after *PV* went to press this week are:

- demand for immediate opening of a Second Front, with insistence that the present campaign in Africa is not a real Second Front;
- demand for immediate passage of the Teen Age draft bill;
- expression of severe criticism of the National War Labor Board's hint that a wage freeze might soon be instituted;
- demand for centralization of administrative control of the nation's economy for war, universal rationing of food, clothing and shelter, price control;
- demand for price control;
- demand for a tax program based on ability to pay;
- demand for curtailing of profits;
- demand for full representation of labor in governmental war agencies

---

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

CIO Adopts Resolution On Negro

Proposed by K. C., St. Louis Urban Leagues

Nov. 13, 1942

The Missouri State Industrial Council of the CIO which met in Jefferson City in September at its annual state convention adopted a resolution submitted by the Urban Leagues of St. Louis and Kansas City, it was announced last week by the executive committee which approved the council's action.

The resolution was framed by Thomas A. Webster, executive secretary of the Kansas City Urban League and Arnold Walker, industrial secretary of St. Louis Urban League. Mr. Walker attended the convention and pushed the adoption of the resolution in the convention.

The adoption of the resolution is in line with the policy of the national CIO move to advance race relations within the union organization.

The resolution is as follows:

WHEREAS, the Congress for Industrial Organization with its broad racial policy has given hope to Negro workers in the development of a new unionism; and

WHEREAS, Industrial unionism, geared directly to modern industrial conditions, has developed leadership conversant with labor, economics and race relations, promises to offer protection to Negro workers against discriminatory practices; and

WHEREAS, These principles and practices subscribed to by organized labor are often confused and sometimes not clearly understood by the general public, white or Negro; and

WHEREAS, the change in the Negro's relation to industry during the past decade has been so rapid and far reaching, that neither white nor the Negro worker has been able to grasp its significance and adjust himself to its circumstances; and

WHEREAS, labor's interests can be protected by informing the general public and all union members of its efforts to resolve racial problems that arise during the war emergency and in the post war reconstruction period.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this convention of the Missouri State Industrial Council of CIO recommend to the incoming State Executive Council the appointment of a committee, to be known as the Committee on Fair Employment Practice which should be charged with: (A.) Conciliating differences arising because of racial discrimination. (B.) Publicizing among the general public the interest and concern of the CIO in the welfare of its entire membership, regardless of race. The procedure by which this committee will carry out its charge shall be approved by the incoming state executive council.

35i-1942

CIO

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

How Labor Fights for Negro's Right to Job

The following story, reprinted from the May 18 issue of the Wisconsin CIO News, shows what one union is doing to smash job discrimination against Negroes. The local is the Allis-Chalmers Local of the United Automobile Workers.

MAY 24 1942

Eight Negro workers, members cf Local 248, walked into 248's clubrooms last week and, to a man, said: "We feel like fighting Hitler now." There's a long story behind that statement. Two of the men, Lee Kimmons and Claude Matherson, have worked for Allis-Chalmers for some years. But they never were able to transfer from the foundries. Never able to get work to match their skill.

351

And the union protested. Again and again grievances were written. The answer was always about the same, no soap.

But union men are also Americans and anti-Fascists. What can't be done through a union contract can be done as citizens.

President Roosevelt set the pace when he issued his great proclamation forbidding discrimination.

In an order, as important as President Lincoln's famous Emancipation Proclamation, Roosevelt said:

MAY 24 1942

"It is the policy of the United States to encourage full participation in the national defense program by all citizens of the United States, regardless of race, creed, color, or national origin, in the firm belief that the democratic way of life within the Nation can be defended successfully only with the help and support of all groups within its borders.

"It is the duty of employers and labor organizations in furtherance of said policy and of this order to provide for the full and equitable participation of all workers in defense industries, without discrimination because of race, creed, color or national origin."

MAY 24 1942

The union immediately appealed to the company on the basis of this new, history-shaking order of the President. But still nothing changed. The answer was still "it's none of your business."

So the union took its case to Chicago, to a hearing of the Fair Employment Practices Committee. The company failed to show up.

But the handwriting was on the wall. Early in April the President's Committee issued an order, naming Allis-Chalmers as a firm which was failing to cooperate with the discrimination order.

The newspapers printed it. It was out in the open.

And then, around that time, things began to change.

Negroes were hired, not only for foundry work, but for the first time in the plant's history, for work in Old Line and other parts of the plant.

There's Warren Cook, hired on April 7, and now running a drill press.

George Patterson, hired on April 21, and now working as boilermaker's helper in Tank and Plate. The same with George Brown, hired on April 16.

Wilbur Tate, hired Apr. 7, running a lathe on the second shift.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Lewis Sets Up Jim-Crow Local In Chicago, CIO Leader Reveals

By Conrad Komorowski

(Special to the Daily Worker)

CHICAGO, June 19.—John L. Lewis was charged today as being an enemy of the Negro people by John Davidson, president of Local 135 of the United Construction Workers, CIO, who revealed to the Daily Worker that Lewis had driven Negroes away from the union and had set up a Jim Crow local in this city.

The charge came after Local 135 had unanimously denounced Lewis as a defeatist and a disrupter of the war program, spurned his offer to affiliate with District 50 and requested a charter from the CIO to sever all connections with the union headed by his brother A. D. Lewis.

Mr. Davidson in charging Lewis with anti - Negro discrimination spoke with pride on the local's struggle against this Hitlerite policy. He pointed out that half of Local 135's membership is Negro and that the most fraternal relations existed between Negro and white unionists.

It called the attempt of A. D. Lewis, to change the affiliation of the Local to District 50 of the UMWA, "completely illegal and in violation of all democratic procedure and of the constitution of the CIO."

Condemning the disruptive activities of John L. Lewis in the labor movement and war effort, the local said:

JUN 20 1942

BLASTS DEFEATIST POLICY

"Having full realization of the importance of an all-out effort to defeat the Axis, knowing that whenever a Hitler henchman comes to power trade unions are smashed and the workers forced to produce at the point of a gun," the membership is for Philip Murray, and the CIO, "who are prosecuting an all-out effort to win the war with all the energy of which they are capable."

It charged that "The Lewis elements who do lip service to the war effort by buying war bonds (which are a profitable investment) are doing nothing to speed the production of coal from the mines."

The Lewis group, it charged, was active in the America First Committee and linked to such anti-labor elements as the Chicago Tribune, Hearst, Coughlin, Wheeler, Dies, and the American Cliveden Set.

The policy committee of the United Construction Workers, without the sanction of the members, transferred the local into District 50 of the UMWA, "an organization in disrepute among the workers for its tactics of raiding and disruption among groups already organized."

SEVERS LEWIS LIES

The local, therefore, has severed connections with this group and requests a charter from the CIO in order to continue its work of organizing the unorganized workers in the construction industry and in building maintenance.

JUN 20 1942

Davidson, revealed some details of the Lewis union wrecking policy in the United Construction Workers.

He said that under Lewis domination union members were forced to accept wage levels below the prevailing union scale. As a result of this practice, the AFL building Trades Council protested to the CIO, and bad feeling was aroused.

He charged that the Lewis forces were acting in concert with seditious, traitorous Trotzkyite forces, and cited the example of Art Joy, who had been sent to Chicago as a Lewis organizer. Joy was forced out by the protests of honest union members.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

The Old South Is Changing Under the Impact of This War

By Eugene Gordon

CIO

There are whites in the South who will stand in a bus or street car rather than assert their rights and take Negroes' seats. They stand with something of an air of defiance, as if daring to show they are against kicking Negro people around.

This is the situation in New Orleans, wholly amazing to persons who haven't traveled in the South or who remember it as they knew it years ago:

JUN 3 1942

Negro and white officials of labor unions are generally accepted as a matter of course. The Transport Workers Union, the National Maritime Union, the Warehouse Workers Union—all these and other CIO outfits have mixed staffs on the basis of equality. And nobody thinks it strange. They are accustomed to it, just as are progressive organizations in New York.

THE TRANSPORT UNION

The Transport Workers Union in New Orleans has a Negro secretary. He handles all money and pays all wages. The union's Negotiating committee is mixed Negro and white.

Abner W. Berry, Communist Party organizer for Harlem who has just returned from a trip South, tells the story of these remarkable changes in relations between Negroes and whites. With reference to the mixed negotiating committee, he says:

"The employers sometimes try to avoid negotiating with the committee, because of its Negro members. They don't get anywhere with their opposition, though. The white members tell the employers that there can't be any negotiating without the full committee and that if the Negro members are absent the committee can't function."

Mr. Berry spoke on an "I Am An American Day" program in Birmingham. His audience was made up of Negro trade unionists and church people.

Wherever he went, he says, he observed "the developing struggle of the two tendencies which have always dominated the life of the South."

TRACES CHANGES

"On one side of this struggle, years ago, was the slave-holding clique, represented today by the strong economic forces connected with the cotton economy. The two tendencies are strongest in the cotton belt."

Historically, Berry says, the old reactionary, cotton-belt tendency was represented by John C. Calhoun.

"On the other hand, there were forces—represented by Jackson, Jefferson and their kind—which based themselves on the frontiersmen, the free Negroes, the backwoodsmen, and elements who fought the slave holders continuously, although always defeated."

The "spiritual descendants" of these two opposing forces—the forces of Calhoun and the forces of Jefferson and Jackson — the "spiritual descendants" of the frontiersmen, backwoodsmen and free Negroes, are today the shipyard workers, the miners, the oil workers, the men and women on production lines, the soldiers, the sailors.

A SPIRIT OF CHALLENGE

"The impact of this world-wide anti-fascist struggle is awakening the spirit of challenge among the progressives of the South," Berry says. "They see a kinship between those Southerners who would impede the anti-fascist war and those Southerners who have always stood in the way of progress."

Reverting to Negro-white relations in New Orleans, Mr. Berry said that most teamsters and bricklayers are Negroes. The teamsters belong to the Transport Workers Union. There are any number of Negro railroad firemen, switchmen, signalmen, brakemen and towermen. There are also some Negro engineers on the freights, especially for short hauls. In New Orleans, also, he said, Negro intellectuals are accepting the leadership and authority of the labor movement.

LABOR'S INFLUENCE

He said, with reference to the Southern people's attitude toward the war:

"Where there is no labor movement down there and where the cotton economy dominates the people's lives, there you'll find indifference on the part of both the whites and the Negroes. This indifference to the anti-fascist war is a result of the social oppression both of the people (Negro and white) and of the labor movement."

But where there is a strong labor movement in the South, he declared, and where there is an active Communist Party, the people's hope seems boundless.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

WPB Guilty Of Race Bias, Says CIO Union

AUG 29 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 27—The War Production Board is guilty of discrimination against Negroes in the operations and costrol section of WPB according to a charge brought forward by the United Federal Workers, CIO, this week.

Backing up their charges by releasing correspondence with Raymond F. Crist, WPB chief of employees relations, and Carlton Hayward, director of personnel, the CIO union accused these two men of "sheer neglect" in failure to enforce Executive Order 8802 forbidding race bias in war work.

Charges from the union are that: Negroes cannot work on the day shift of the operations and control section; there are no Negro supervisors despite the hundreds of Negroes employed; and they are denied promotional opportunities of any sort.

These charges will be turned over to the President's committee on Fair Employment Practice and an appeal will be placed on Donald Nelson's desk.

No comment has forth come from WPB on the accusations.

Time
Chicago, Illinois

LABOR

Industrial Democracy

Nov. 23, 1942

Among all the labor bigwigs who attended the C.I.O. convention this month in Boston, no man had more unpleasant news on his mind than Left Wing Communist-inclined Reid Robinson, president of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers. Coming up to Boston for a love feast with Phil Murray and the boys he ended up taking a trip across the continent in a U.S. Army bomber trying to quell mutiny among his own miners.

Cause of the hurried trip was the flat refusal of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Local No. 1 at Butte, Mont. to allow Negro workers down the shafts of Anaconda Copper. This was in grim defiance of C.I.O.'s strong pro-Negro policies. It was also in defiance of the U.S. Army, and of an Administration patently striving to promote amicable Negro-white relations among the labor forces of this country.

The rumpus at Butte goes back to last month when the Army furloughed 4,000 soldier miners in an effort to ease the terrific shortage of labor in the nonferrous mines. In Utah a few of the new recruits were turned down because of physical disabilities which the Army had passed but which would not stand up in the face of stiff health requirements of the Utah mines. But to Butte were assigned 30-odd physically healthy furloughed Negro soldiers who had only to meet the requirements of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Local No. 1—so old it is known as the "mother local"—headed by an oldtime, plain-spoken Irish miner, Jim Byrne.

Bernard Hoffman

LEFT-WING ROBINSON

The race problem was his.

Local No. 1's requirements proved stiffer than the army had expected. When the first 14 Negroes appeared at the pit, 100 miners on the night shift walked out but were urged back to work by the management. Subsequently the whole local refused to work as long as a single Negro was below ground. It was at that point that Mr. Robinson was called from Boston, arrived in Butte for a Sunday meeting held in the Fox Theater. Solemnly 1,700 miners listened to telegrams from Phil Murray, Paul McNutt, General Brehon Somervell. Solemnly they voted to s by their guns.

This week the Anaconda copper mi were still open, though not operating full capacity for want of labor. The Negroes were still in Butte, but all above ground. The C.I.O., the Army and the Administration were sputtering. Anaconda, for once no one's whipping boy, could say with Daniel M. Kelly, mine manager: "We're just on the sidelines in all this show." Said Mr. Byrne of Local No. 1: "We're going on the theory that this is still a democracy."

CIO

351-1942
Afro-American
Baltimore. Md.

Nov. 21, 1942

CIO Convention Sidelights

BOSTON — Mrs. Rose Burrell of Baltimore, president of the CIO's new Domestic Workers' Local, was one of the happiest delegates at the five-day convention held here last week at the Hotel Statler.

Mrs Burrell said that she was pleased with the work of the convention and anticipated that with the inspiration gained there she could return home and do big things with her local during the coming year.

Although the discussion on race discrimination in war industries took up at least two hours on the floor of the convention Tuesday, daily papers failed to make any reference to it.

At the suggestion of Lee Pressman, white, secretary of the convention's resolutions committee, and with the approval of President Phillip Murray, delegates to the convention on Tuesday sent telegrams and letters to their Senators urging that they work for passage of the anti-poll tax bill now pending before the Senate.

FEPC Member Speaks

In giving his approval to the action, President Murray said: "Immediately following adjournment of the convention this evening, I suggest that the delegates hie themselves to the nearest telegraph office on behalf of their organization and write the Senators from their respective States urging them to vote for this legislation."

John Brophy, treasurer of the CIO and a member of the President's Fair Employment Practice Committee, speaking at one of the sessions, said:

"The CIO wants discrimination removed; it is a blight on the fair name of the union; wants it removed now as a matter of good sense and the full employment utilization of all classes of labor, but we want it removed for an additional reason: because its removal is right and ethically sound."

17 Colored Delegates

Approximately 17 of the 500 delegates to the convention were colored. They included:

Willard Townsend, member of the executive board and president of the United Transport Employees; John Yancey, vice-president, and Eugene E. Frazier, both of the same body; Ferdinand Smith, executive secretary, National Maritime Union; Boyd Wilson, St. Louis, United Catering Workers; Mrs. Rose Burrel of Baltimore, Domestic Workers; W. Richard Carter of Bay City, Mich. Shipbuilders; Oscar Wilson, Packinghouse Men; Charles Brown, St. Louis, Mine and Smelter Workers; Leonard Simpson, New York, United Sugar Workers; Richard Bancroft, Washington, Federal Workers' Union; Noah Walter, New York City, Amalgamated Clothing Workers; James Carrady, Boston Local UTSE; George Weaver, J. C. Reid, Earl Adams, all of UTSE.

6 Women Delegates

The women's auxiliary of the convention held its sesions at the same time as the regular sessions. Two of its members, Callaway of Chicago, United Transport Service Employees, and Mrs. Alice Nevill of New York, National Maritime Union, were elected to the auxiliary's executive board.

Other women delegates included Mrs. Lessie Doe, Cincinnati; Mrs. Mary Randall, New York; Mrs. Katherine Thomas and Mrs. Mary Jones, Providence, all of the ETSE, and Mrs. Julia Fitch, Waterbury, Conn., Smelter Workers' auxiliary.

Highlight of the closing session in the convention, Friday, was the rousing ovation given President Murray when he was unanimously re-elected president of the organization.

Touching scene was the farewell between President Philip Murray and his son who was leaving for army duty. Tears welled up in their eyes as they parted in front of the hotel.

* * *

President Murray, discussing race discrimination at the Friday session said: "I have always contended that the chief way to approach the solution of the problem of racial discrimination is through the establishment of bonafide trade unions which will afford colored people and other minorities the protection they're entitled to in American industry."

* * *

Colored persons who desired to and could get accommodations stayed at the Hotel Statler, largest hostelry in Boston. Many residents of the city said, however, that it was not the practise for the hotel to admit colored people. At least 8 of the 17 delegates had rooms there and all reported being treated like Americans.

* * *

Bryn Roberts, president of the National Union of Public Employees of Great Britain, speaking at the Tuesday session, praised the conduct of colored American troops in England. He said in part:

"We have had a number of colored American troops in Britain for sometime now. They have made a very good impression on us. We have been impressed by their excellent behavior and their very friendly and genial disposition and they are most welcome in our island."

Mr. Roberts' remarks were occasioned by statements of President Murray that discrimination against colored workers must go; the English labor leader praised the stand of the CIO in this matter.

* * *

A CIO committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was set up by President Murray during the convention. Members are James B. Carey, white, secretary of the organization; Willard S. Townsend, president of United Transport Service Employees; Boyd Wilson of United Steelworkers; and James J. Leary of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers. President Murray said that the committee's job is to make an "over-all study of the discrimination problem and present an over-all picture to the executive board at one of its early meetings."

* * *

Over 2,000 members of the National Maritime Union have died from Nazi bombings or torpedoeings, Ferdinan Smith, executive secretary of the union said. Of this number, over 200 were colored.

"These people died," Mr. Smith said, "that America might remain democratic and that she might advance democracy."

* * *

Philip M. Connelly of the California State Industrial Union Council revealed, Tuesday, that there was no trouble when colored workers were introduced into the Douglas Aircraft factories in Los Angeles, where over 1,000 are now employed on the production lines. The management told white workers they could work with colored employees or quit. "Nobody quit," Mr. Connelly said.

* * *

Members of the New England district of the United Transport Service Employees presented a brief case to President Murray during the Wednesday morning session. James O. Cannaday, international vice-president for the district was the spokesmen. Others in the group were: Richard Hamme, chairman of the Boston Council and Robert Nichols, secretary of the council.

* * *

The CIO convention passed a resolution urging President Roosevelt to set aside the deportation order of Harry Bridges, West Coast union leader.

James Drury of the Baltimore Industrial Union Council, in discussing the action against Bridges for alleged subversive activities, said that in reality he is being persecuted because he protects minority groups within his union.

Full Output Is Menaced by Shortage

Nov. 29, 1942

DAILY WORKER

By Eric Webber

(The Worker Staff Correspondent)

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. — The housing shortage in this city is proving a serious bottleneck in the battle for production.

The housing problem is reflected in every war town in America due to the tremendous influx of war workers. Here in Bridgeport, the situation is further aggravated by "Socialist" Mayor McLevy who, working in conjunction with big real estate, interests, has been lukewarm and even hostile to a program of Federal housing projects.

Nov. 29, 1942

HOW IT HURTS WAR

A report of the Bridgeport Housing Conference, called by the Housing Committee, CIO Industrial Union Council, ~~indicates~~ that the lack of adequate housing in this vital war center is:

1) Undermining the moral of war workers.

2) Slowing up war production due to absenteeism caused by illness and lack of rest.

3) Driving thousands of necessary, capable production workers back to their homes and unemployment.

4) Dropping the health standard nearly 50 per cent below normal.

5) Giving rise to unprecedented war profiteering in shelter and food, despite freezing orders.

6) Causing widespread venereal disease.

DAILY WORKER

WHAT WORKERS SAY

"When I was living at 387 E. Main St.," Charles Rivers, international representative United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, told The Worker, "I had to kick the dirt aside to get up the stairs. I called the Board of Health and they told me they couldn't do anything. The real trouble with the health department here is that they're undermanned. There is only one inspector for every 50,000 residents.

"Why housing conditions are so bad here that the attics of old homes are rented out to as many as ten guys. They sleep in hot-beds. When one guy gets out to go to work, another guy gets in."

BABY BITTEN BY RATS

Mrs. Jennie Seno, her husband and six children live at 110 Rivers St. Her smallest child just returned from the hospital where he was treated for rat bites. Nov. 29

"The children are always sick and as many as four were in the hospital at the same time. For a long time now, we've been hearing the baby cry out in pain in the middle of the night. And every morning, he would be bleeding from rat bites.

"One night my husband waited up. When the baby cried, he went into the room and saw a rat in the baby's bed. It was so big that I had to get another man to help him kill it.

"If we could get into a project house, I'd be so happy, I'd cry."

PLIGHT OF NEGROES

The following story typifies the average housing condition existing among the Negro people. While the plight of white workers is indescribably bad, that of the Negro, is beyond endurance. Nov. 29

Eleven people live in Mrs. Lucille Hailey's rooms. Seven people live in one room seven by eight feet. Four people live in another one a trifle smaller. The house is located at 92 Pine St.

"Two families live here," Mrs. Hailey said. "It's hard for colored people to get rooms. My husband works for an iron foundry and now that we have a few dollars to spare, there's no rooms to be had because we're colored and there just ain't no place to go. Why this place hasn't been painted in five years. And there's no place to wash yourself except the kitchen sink.

"We use the toilet with everybody in the house. And the smell is awful. It comes right through the walls into the kitchen.

"Couple weeks ago the Board of Health man came around and said he was going to do something. Hasn't been around since. Those that can help you just talk and talk but they don't help any."

LANDLORDS HIKE RENTS

Landlords are carrying on a systematic purge of tenants in an effort to re-rent their apartments at higher fees.

The Cignarali family of 552 Marigold Ave. is one of the subjects of this purge.

"We've been living in this attic since June 15 and now the landlord is trying to throw us out into the street. Even though the place is a firetrap, we have to live here. We have no place else to go. There is no other place in Bridgeport where we could go.

"One of my children is an epileptic. Once the owner of the house turned off the electricity to force us to move, and the child fell down the attic steps."

These are not isolated stories. The people who told them are average Bridgeport war workers. The conditions under which they live and work, embrace the population as a whole.

Rooms in this city are rented to as many as four, five and six people. In many instances, one room earns in excess of $1,500 a year. The McLevy administration has made no effort to check the increase in rentals.

Mayor McLevy is the man who said Federal housing may be a war necessity, but "it's not a community asset."

DAILY WORKER

When **The Worker** reporter asked McLevy what he intended to do towards alliviating the housing shortage, he asserted that 500 new family dwellings were in the process of construction. The influx of war workers, however, has passed the 70,000 mark.

That's the picture: 500 new dwellings for 70,000 people.

NEW YORK NY

J. D. Elmendorf, director of the Home Registration Bureau told **The Worker** that his office had taken 2,258 applications for family dwellings but that he had only been able to place 302. **"Many hundreds of families more came to us," he said, "but we had to refuse to take their applications."**

WORKERS QUIT JOBS

Elmendorf stated further that, **"Bridgeport has lost many hundreds of good workers because of the housing shortage. Even those who were willing to subject their families to subnormal living conditions in the interest of the war effort, were forced to give up in despair. There just isn't anything to be had."**

The housing shortage can be met by throwing into high gear an emergency housing program. Decent housing for war production workers is a military necessity. Indifference to the needs of these workers is tantamount to willfully destroying the machines they operate.

Nov. 29, 1942

While those materials needed for housing, are also necessary for war production, the War Production Board has set aside a large store for war housing.

But as Washington labor and housing experts point out the WPB is guilty of "piecemeal and uncertain supplying of essential materials by a system of increasingly inflated priority ratings."

The Bridgeport Housing Conference summed up the situation with a resolution calling upon the Federal government to take all necessary steps to protect the health and well-being of war workers as they would protect vital machines from sabotage.

Mr. McGillicuddy, international organizer for the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, pointed out that funds for Bridgeport housing developments and dormitories were available through a congressional grant, and that it was up to the war workers of Bridgeport to get together and demand they be used.

The continuance of the housing problem in Bridgeport and other war communities is the direct result of chaos in planning and rationing. Congress has already set aside $120,000,000 for war housing. But Bridgeport "housing committees" and there are a good number of them, are working at odds with each other placing obstacles in the path of the government housing projects.

Meanwhile, war workers who are determined to keep production rolling at any cost are solid in the opinion that the Federal government should institute an over-all authority to break through local red tape and build housing units now.

Chicago Defender

Chicago, Illinois

CIO ACTS FAST TO END STRIKE AGAINST NEGRO

22 Studebaker Men Walk Out When Worker Gets Job In Tool Room

DEC 26 1942

A short 22-man walkout at the Studebaker airplane engine plant called to protest employment of a Negro in the tool room was quickly halted by drastic, swift action by the CIO United Auto Workers union this week.

Reiterating its determined stand against discrimination, the Studebaker CIO local had the 22 strikers out of 125 men in the tool room back on the job in 2- hours after work was stopped.

The dispute began when Maxwell Gleves, an experienced Negro tool maker formerly in the Ford River Rouge plant, was given a job on a machine in the key Studebaker tool department. The management had previously warned the white workers in the tool room that Gleves was to be transferred and some agitation against Gleves began before he was put on his new job.

Union Stand

On his transfer work was completely stopped and 22 men out of the 125 in the shop asked for passes to leave their jobs.

William Sennett, chairman of Local 998's educational committee, then spoke to the protesting workers and explained the union's anti-discrimination stand. "We've been fighting in this union for equality of opportunity ever since the founding of the CIO and we're not going to abandon that principle now," Sennett told the men.

"We're making these airplane engines to fight a war for democracy. Let's make that democracy a reality right here in the shop by giving everybody a break without regard to color or creed."

DEC 26 1942

Some of the whites pointed out: "If the government wants Negro and white together in defense plants, why don't they put them together in the Army." Several others suggested a segregated tool department for Negroes.

Some 22 of the men still insisted on walking out and going home. The union and management then sent wires to all of them telling them to come back to work the next morning or else they would be cited before the War Manpower commission.

By Tuesday morning all had returned to their jobs with Gleves working in the department.

35i-1942

C.I.O.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Drop Men Who Show Prejudice

Union Leaders Act Quickly to Stop Jim-Crow

MAY 29 1942

By Harry Levette

LOS ANGELES.—(ANP)—Proving that it takes only strong measures to prevent color prejudice from slowing defense work, only two of a large number of white longshoremen fell victims to their own decrepitude during the loading of a merchant ship with supplies for the war zone last week.

With the ship under hurried orders to sail as soon as the badly needed cargo was in the hold, two colored members of the CIO union were sent from Union hall to reinforce the crew loading it. Upon their arrival, two white workmen immediately became disgruntled and began agitating in vain with the rest of the white men for mass objection to working with the colored longshoremen. Failing this they rang Union hall, but getting no satisfaction asked for replacements. This was refused also, so they walked off the job.

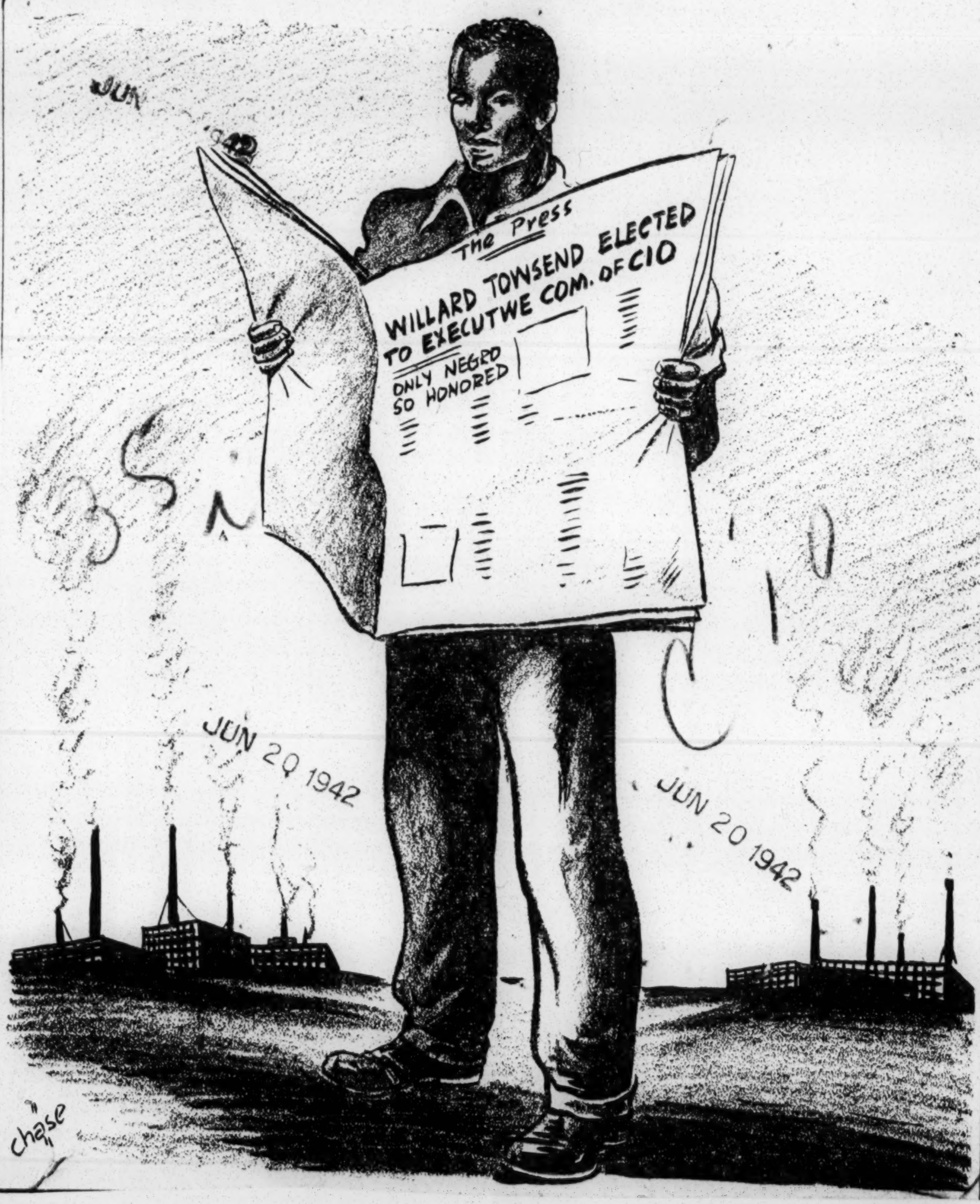
MAY 29 1942

Ordered by Harry Bridges, director of the California CIO, several officials of the Longshoremen and Warehousemen's union hurried to the job and drastically laid down the law to the rest of the white members. They were given the ultimatum of working with the colored members or getting out. All expressed their willingness and backed up their union leaders.

The same night Bridges appeared before the executive board of Local 13 ILWU, and offered a resolution condemning the non-democratic action of the two objectors. They were warned that a repetition of such discrimination would result in their exclusion from the union. The resolution also stated that any other member who should in the future start like agitation would be permanently expelled without further warning.

Amsterdam Star-News
New York, N. Y.

MEMO TO A. F. OF L.


The Press
WILLARD TOWSEND ELECTED TO EXECUTWE COM. OF CIO
ONLY NEGRO SO HONORED
Chase

JUN 20 1942

JUN 20 1942

Amsterdam Star-News
New York, N. Y.

Labor Points the Way

WE POINT WITH PRIDE TO WILLARD TOWNSEND, international president of the United Transport Service Employes of America, who was recently elected to the executive committee of the CIO by that body at its meeting in Washington. This was the first time a Negro international union has been given a charter by the CIO and the first time a member of our race has been elevated to the executive and governing council of a national labor body.

JUN 20 1942

Our pointing with pride to Mr. Townsend is not predicated upon blind worship of another Negro in a high place. Instead, it comes after the sober conviction that Mr. Townsend is representative of the ideals of the thousands upon thousads of Negroes who in the last ten years have become labor conscious and have worked toward the goal consummated in the honor bestowed upon the UTSEA leader.

The times demand that every man should have a voice in what is going on. The Negro is being integrated more rapidly today than ever in all phases of the labor movement, not only in America, but abroad. When the war is over, the effects will be seen. Not as happened at the end of World War 1, when Negro workers were the first to be fired once the flames in the mills were allowed to flicker out as war orders ceased. And not as happened during the Great Depression in which black men and women were thrown out of work first, their white co-workers next.

JUN 20 1942

We would like to see the American Federation of Labor give more recognition to the Negro's place in organized labor. The battle must continue; more places must be found and filled by competent Negro labor leaders. And as the fight goes on, we again point with pride to Willard Townsend, president of the UTSEA and member of the national CIO executive board.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Democracy At Home

"Eight Negroes Hired; Thousands Strike." That headline should cause Goebbels' propaganda agents to shout with joy. It is material ready-made to sow suspicion and distrust of our liberal professions among our black, brown and yellow allies in the world-wide struggle against the foes of democracy.

JUN 2 1942

As a matter of fact, the headlined Detroit strike caused by assigning eight Negroes to operate machines in the Hudson Naval Ordnance Arsenal was a direct outgrowth of the management's desire to carry out President Roosevelt's instructions to avoid racial discrimination. Thus the strike was a disloyal act. And, as Secretary of the Navy Knox said, such an act made the strikers subject to instant dismissal. Similar denunciations came from President Thomas of the United Automobile Workers. As a result the revolt of the misguided C. I. O. group was shortlived. Latest reports indicate that production in the plant is again normal.

The important fact to stress about this strike is that it testifies to the progress that has been made in overcoming discriminations against Negroes in industry. For it is their employment at tasks heretofore regarded as the monopoly of white workers that has caused all the trouble in this particular case. It is, to be sure, only one of many instances where friction has developed over placement of Negroes in war jobs. But such conflicts are the inevitable accompaniments of efforts to overcome obstacles erected by custom and confirmed by prejudice. And they are incidental. If we look behind the headline we shall discover much to hearten us and confirm our confidence in the steady advance of democratic ideals at home while we fight for their preservation abroad.

Of course, it is not incumbent upon believers in democratic institutions and governmental forms to treat all their fellow men alike. Everyone has likes and dislikes, based on racial, religious or purely personal grounds. Nobody is compelled to work alongside another man of a different color against his will. But that very liberty to choose one's associates, to work or to remain idle, is assured because we live under a Government that tries to protect the rights of the individual and to insure him equality of status under the law. In these troublous times let us all remember that.

JUN 2 1942

JUN 2 1 1942

Knoxville, Tenn., Journal
June 3, 1942

Strike Against Negroes—In Deep North

DETROIT, June 2 (AP) — The Chrysler Corp. today closed its Dodge truck plant which employes 3000 men after, the management reported, some 700 employes demonstrated inside the factory protesting the transfer of 20 Negroes into the plant.

A company spokesman said the Negroes were transferred from the main Dodge plant under the Chrysler agreement with the United Automobile Workers (CIO) and at the request of international union officials.

When the Negroes entered the plant, the management reported, 350 workers left their machines and threatened to throw them out of the factory. Fighting was averted, it was said, but about 700 employes then staged a protest in front of the plant manager's office.

Globe and Independen
Nashville, Tenn.

Two Colored Vice Presidents Chosen by CIO

The workers in the Congress of Industrial Organizations, following their progressive policy, loosened further, the wedge of discrimination between the Negro and white workers in the recent CIO state convention, by electing two Negroes to the vice presidency of the state CIO.

They are Lee Christian of the International Woodworkers and Joe Walker of the United Steelworkers. Both are from Memphis.

Christian is a pioneer leader in the CIO in Memphis, having led one of the first successful all Negro strikes in the South. He is also treasurer of the Memphis CIO Industrial Union Council. Joe Walker is a member of the council and a leader in the I. C. Railroad local in Memphis.

This is truly a great victory for the workers and particularly the Negro workers. The wedge which is driven deeply between the two races has kept both under the yoke of economic slavery for many years. But today, under the leadership of the CIO, the wedge of discrimination is being knocked out, and the workers are uniting rapidly into an organization in which an injury to one is an injury to all, regardless of race, creed or color, in order that we might establish the real democracy that we are fighting for.

JUL 3 1942

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

Liberal Whites Unite To Elect Negro On Board

CIO Delegates Plan Forward Step At Annual Convention Meeting in Chicago This Week.

By George F. McCray

CHICAGO, Aug 6 (ANP)—Negro and progressive white delegates to the annual convention of the CIO United Auto Workers Union, opening in Chicago Monday are striving to unite their forces and line up enough votes to elect a Negro to the international executive board of the union. Since executive board members are elected from the region in which they will have general supervision of the union's affairs for the ensuing year, the unity forces are focusing their activities among the delegates from Michigan.

Shelton Tappes, whom 80,000 workers at the Ford River Rouge plant in Detroit pay $4,000 per year to be their elected recording secretary, has withdrawn from the race leaving the field to Walter Hardin and Oscar Noble. Hardin as the chairman of the unions interracial committee works very closely with President R. J. Thomas and has had unusual experience settling interracial conflicts in unions. Oscar Noble, though only 28 years old, is a cornerstone in the powerful Pontiac local of the union. For years he has been plant committeeman and played a dominant role in holding 10,000 General Motors workers in the CIO after the Homer Martin split.

Victory For Labor-War Unity

Observers point out that the election of a Negro to the international executive board from the Michigan area would be a major victory for national unity and the employment of Negro workers in defense industries. Such a move taken in addition to a constitutional provision which will be adopted to penalize workers for refusing to work beside Negroes, will, it is thought, put an end to much of the agitation against the promotion of Negro defense workers. Other observers claim these two moves will do much to convince Negroes that only the unions are able to combat employmnet discrimination on a broad general basis

Will Vote Be Split?

According to present reports, however, if two Negro candidates enter the field both will be defeated. Noble or Hardin running alone would at best have little better than an even chance. Before the ballots are cast another withdrawal is being eagerly awaited by the unity leaders.

AUG 7 1942

World-Telegram
New York, N. Y.

Negro Workers and Labor Union Practices.

By Rachel V. Carrothers.

The pledge by Philip Murray, president of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, made in his speech before the convention of the United Automobile Workers, that in negotiations for unity with the American Federation of Labor the AFL would have to abandon all racial discrimination, is welcome news to Negro workers.

It is true that many AFL unions, notably the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and the American Federation of Teachers, headed by Prof. George Counts, have no color bar and are aggressive in securing equal rights for their Negro members. It is also true that locals of some CIO unions have attempted to bar Negro workers.

But in every case in which locals of CIO unions have acted in such a discriminatory way the national officials of their organizations have intervened to preserve the rights of the Negro workers to full membership and employment opportunities. On the other hand, a number of AFL national unions, notably the Boiler Makers and the International Assn. of Machinists, specifically bar Negroes. The Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, Station Employees and Freight Handlers even claims jurisdiction for collective bargaining purpose over Negroes in their line of work, but will not admit them to full membership. A number of locals of the AFL unions bar Negro workers in practice without effective rebuke from their national officials.

While unions on the whole are guilty of discrimination less than most other organizations or institutions in our social life, they have definitely practiced discrimination in certain outstanding instances, and it is encouraging to know that Philip Murray has put himself and the CIO squarely on record against such practices.

Manhattan.

AUG 10 1942

35 i - 1942

CIO

Expose Instigators of Jim Crowism

Union Action Gets Jobs for Negroes

Daily Worker

SEP 23 1942

NY, N.Y.

By Eugene Gordon

Sidney Mason and other officials of Local 1225, United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, CIO, decided to do something and quickly, about that disturbing situation in the Esmco shops. Investigation seemed to bear out the management's assertion that HE wasn't to blame because no Negroes worked there.

SEP 23 1942

"I'm perfectly willing to hire Negro girls," the management's spokesman had said, "but, of course, you wouldn't have me break up the whole shop, wouud you? Well, the white girls swear that if I hire a Negro they'll quit."

It sounded like the old gag. Local 1225 determined to find out, once and for all. It wouldn't be the first time management had blamed workers for its own anti-Negro policy. It looked, however, as if the management had told the truth this time. Girls in the shop had undoubtedly objected to working with Negroes.

SEP 23 1942

Mason made an appointment with Brooklyn's Esmco Auto Products Corp.'s management to speak to the assembled workers. He went over to the 34th St. shop, accompanied by Al Bennett, Negro vice-president of the local, by Abraham Burdick, Mason's assistant (and now candidate for the State Senate on the ALP ticket in the 8th Senatorial District), and by one or two other union officials.

Scores of girls told the union frankly they had never worked with Negroes and had "misgivings." They stated their "misgivings": Wouldn't it be embarrassing, having to eat with the Negro girls? They wouldn't know just how to "address" the Negro girls nor how to allow the Negro girls to "address" them. Would they be expected to follow up shop associations after work?

TWO STOOGES

All except two were satisfied, finally, with the answers. Only two stood out against working with Negroes. These two insisted they would leave if Negro girls were hired. And these two were shown, upon union investigation, to be company "stooges." In the course of its investigation the union discovered that the "stooges" also objected to buying war bonds and that they were gossip mongers.

Local 1225 got Negro girls into that shop. The management later found a pretext to fire them. The union got others in. They, too, were fired. Local 1225 proved definitely, however, that it was the management and not the workers who barred Negroes. United Electrical is still fighting Esmco's anti-Negro policy.

SEP 23 1942

The union's method of fighting such a policy is to keep on sending Negro workers. If it is proved that these workers are denied jobs because they are Negroes, the union makes it an issue. Thus some union members, themselves carrying the virus of "racism," purge themselves with being forced by union policy to purge others.

"We don't have to become sentimental about the Negro in order to fight for his rights as an American and a worker," Mason says. "This is wartime and we need every available worker. Everybody can understand this simple fact. To bar a worker because of race or nationality, when every worker is needed, is a crime against the people. Everybody can understand this simple fact too," he declares.

GETS JOBS

On such "simple" facts Local 1225 got Sally Goodwin a war job with H. S. Chandler and Company; and Bessie Kemp and Dorothy Shumway war jobs with the Polarizing Instrument.. and Al Bennett, the local's popular vice-president, a war job in a shop where he has been made the head plater. All these women and men are Negroes. All are devoted unionists. These shops previously had held on to their Negro hate just as the Esmco is so desperately holding on to its now.

Gene Daniels' case requires special mention. This Negro machine shop specialist, working for the Seal-O-Strain Corp., Brooklyn, is a filer. He has been studying machine practice, and, now that he is on the night shift, his shop has arranged for him to work three hours daily in the tool room, thus affording him a longed-for chance to learn to make tools. In addition, he is teaching 11 white youths.

His shop has overwhelmingly elected Daniels to membership on its committee.

Bessie Kemp, beautiful as well as accomplished—she graduated tops from the Girls Commercial High School, Brooklyn—was recommended for her job at the Polarizing plant by the National Negro Congress. She represented her local's 7,000 membership at the recent Cleveland UE convention. So did Ernest Anderson, the local's president, and Bennett, its vice-president, both Negroes.

SEP 23 1942

Local 1225 as a fighter for Negro rights is hailed beyond union borders. Guichard Parris, director of Negro affairs, National Youth Administration, New York City and Long Island, recently wrote Sidney Mason:

"... May I take this opportunity to express our gratitude for the excellent cooperation you have given in the matter of integration of qualified Negro youths, who have secured war work, experience and training in our shops, into the various industries having union contracts with your organization.

"Your local is to be especially commended at this time, when the country is sorely needing the skills and abilities of workers irrespective of color, race or creed, to fashion the implements of war for the protection not only of our shores but of the very freedoms which every American holds so dearly.

"Personally, I believe that this understanding and work of your organization will go a long way to bring to the attention of all men of good will the salient fact that Negroes and whites can and must work together in order to win this war and achieve the peace."

Negro Labor News

Houston, Texas

No Negro Delegates To CIO Meet

Nov. 14/1942

Despite the present intensive drive for Negro members in the CIO in Houston and vicinity, no Negro delegates or representatives were sent from here to the national convention held in Boston this week.

Four representatives of CIO unions in the Houston area, all white, were in attendance, however. They were Frank A. Hardesty, regional director; John Crossland, secretary of Oil Workers Local 367; Frank Rabun of the Newspaper Guild, and Arthur Reister, president of the United Sugar Refinery Workers Local 917.

One of the largest and most important conventions in CIO history, according to Hardesty, Negro CIO members will have to depend on reports brought back by white delegates. The CIO here is claiming Negro members in the Hughes Tool Company alone. If this be true, Negroes should have been chosen as delegates, other unionists here state.

Labor leaders expected that R. R. Grovey, Negro organizer, would be sent to Boston to make a first-hand report of conditions affecting the CIO drive among Negro workers in this region. He was not sent either as a delegate or as a representative.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.

The Maids Should Organize

SEP 19 1942

SEP 19 1942

Efforts of the American Federation of Labor in Oklahoma City to organize the maids, and other units of Negro life should meet with instant and favorable response. Sometime ago the same venture was made in Little Rock by the CIO and was aborted by members of the Negro professional groups who argued against the movement.

How under high heaven one could tell the Negro mother who works the long, dreary hours in the home of white people that her pitiful stipend of from $3 to $6 is sufficient and adequate, is hardly believable. In all of the wage and hour laws passed by congress the measures have excluded "outside workers, agriculturists and domestics." This was made possible because none of this class of workers have been organized and united in such a way to use their collective bargaining power, or exercise political influence as a group.

It can be readily seen that there is no sign of color or race in language that refers to "outside workers, agriculturists and domestics" but one instantly recognizes that ninety-eight per cent of Negro workers come with one of the three above named classifications. At the present time there is no protection for the average Negro worker gainfully employed. They live today in a slave-market realm where daily, through community processes they are placed on the auction block helpless victims of semi-peonage.

SEP 19 1942

Down at Denison and Sherman, Texas, we are advised that the standard wage for Negro domestics is $2 per week. Think today what it takes for food and raiment, and ask yourself this question: "How can anyone expect daughters of black mothers to remain virtuous, chaste and sweet on a weekly salary of $2 per week?"

In New York City authorities have been busy because of protests, in breaking an actual slave market where Negro women congregate and stand in the sun and rain while selfish, cruel overlords of creation haggle over the pittance they will offer for long hours of back-breaking, torturous labor.

SEP 19 1942

Now comes the American Federation of Labor on the scene and suggests organization, and immediately suspicion and fears begin to creep. In a certain sense we cannot blame these humble black mothers, who with their poverty-stricken stipends have carved out a makeshift economy. So often they have had hopes dashed to the earth. When anyone talks of wage increases they remember how across the years they have grasped at shadows without getting any of the substance. That miserable, contemptible $3 per week is after all the same sort of prop in their home as the fat salary of white workers who today make from $40 to $70 per week. A sack of flour costs the humble Negro woman just as much as it does the banker for whom she works.

There are going to be some horrifying moments in the atmosphere of economic readjustment for the Negro worker. Down in the Carolinas quite recently, the Negro workers who united for the purpose of collective bargaining were charged with planning a revolt, and that in the evil conspiracy white people were to be exterminated. This is but the forerunner of other and more serious attempts that will be made to thwart the black worker from entering the portals and the precincts of gainful opportunity.

But the sacrifice must be made. There must be a beginning. The Negro workers should remember the Biblical admonition, that—

> "He who would lose his life shall save it."

SEP 19 1942

There are times when self immolation and that alone can win in a great struggle. Organized labor is very likely to be in control of this nation when the war is over. In fact, an economic revolution is going on right at this moment. Congress, when it passed the National Labor Relations Act, gave the green light to labor. The billions of dollars now being piled up in joining fees, etc., will be used following the war in an attempt to wrest the political structure from the capitalistic class.

The time is ripe for the Negro laborer to do a deal of serious thinking. Which side of the controversy will the black man take? In that decision and conclusion there is not much choice. The interest of the white and the black worker is identical and the same. Right now when organized labor extends the olive branch to the Negro worker the black man should be on the alert. He should have an awareness of the social and economic changes developing. The Black Dispatch suggests here and now that Negro women in Oklahoma City have an opportunity to break new ground in the labor field. Procrastination is the theif of time. He who hesitates is lost.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

CIO Will Push Drive To Extend Unionism

By CARL LAWRENCE

Nov-21,1942

BOSTON.—If you're really concerned about the efforts to win freedom for this country's millions of economic slaves, study carefully the objectives of the much discussed CIO.

If you are honestly interested in the future of our own businesses with respect to the sort of racial respect we've been fighting for all these years, check on the program of all unions.

Because, whether we like it or not, the wage earners of tomorrow are going to be organized. In the post-war era, I'm trying to tell you, we're going to be blessed with either the democracy we've been talking about or the Hitlerism we frequently condemn.

Headed for Democracy

As an observer here during last week, I'm inclined to believe that we're headed for some real democracy. That's why I am suggesting that our 10,000,000 colored "economic slaves" think in terms of what labor unions have to offer.

It's also important to study the objectives of the American Federation of Labor . . . the organization frequently criticized by those who are leading the fight against America's vicious Jim Crow system in government, private industry and in all the strongly organized labor unions, except the CIO.

President Philip Murray talked loud and long on the evils of segregation every day while the convention was in progress, and CIO'ers (even those from the South) backed him up to a degree unexpected by the most rabid of the CIO's colored enthusiasts.

At the close of the convention last Friday, President Murray added further impetus to his remarks on Jim Crowism by naming a committee to carry out the CIO's anti-discrimination policies until officials and delegates to the next convention meet again.

On top of that, he saw to it that Willard Townsend, president of the UTSE, was elected again as a member of the CIO's Executive Board.

Two Women Chosen

And to make sure that colored unionists were included in everything, Mr. Murray and his associates saw to it that two of our women were placed on the executive board of the CIO Women's Auxiliary.

Those appointed are Mrs. Alice Nevill, sponsored by the National Maritime Union of New York; and Mrs. Martha Callaway, of the United Transport Service Employees in Chicago. It was a fitting tribute to the women of our race and an extraordinary move on Murray's part to let America's bigots know that the CIO is really interested in democracy even though the war and the fight for job security is still going on.

"I wish to God Almighty," Murray told the delegates, "that the universe would follow this example of brotherhood which has been set by the CIO."

But getting back to the millions still unorganized and the CIO's plans for their future, it is safe to say that officials of this organization are definitely going to campaign to organize those without labor union status.

Already, organizers estimate, there are at least 500,000 colored workers in the CIO. In all, it is believed that the thirty-five affiliated unions represent nearly 6,000,000 wage earners.

With the AFL representing more than 5,000,000 and the railway brotherhoods and independent unions holding ironclad contracts for thousands more, it is quite evident that nearly 12,000,000 workers are members of unions at present.

Unions Will Rule

What does that mean, so far as the future is concerned? our civic and political leaders ask.

It means that jobs in the post-war era are going to be controlled by unions; that the members of these organizations are scheduled for first consideration, so that whatever is left will be turned over to the unorganized.

All the skilled jobs are controlled in such a manner now. The rules will be even more strict when we finish with the task of winning this war.

If church, fraternal, civic and political leaders are smart, they'll guide our already exploited workers straight by urging them to join legitimate labor unions wherever and whenever they are operating in a given industry or trade.

That's good insurance for the future and a plain common sense attitude for our leaders, professionals and business men who stand to benefit plenty when the 10,000,000 working men and women (of our race) win the right to earn a decent wage.

Living Wage Demanded

As a reporter, I have covered many conventions but none of them seemed as important as the CIO's session here last week. Whether a delegate was white or black, from Alabama or Michigan, the theme was always the same—a living wage for all workers regardless of race, color or creed.

President Murray emphasized that particular angle in at least five of his addresses to the convention. He hit Jim Crowism with everything in the book and the delegates appeared 100 percent behind him.

It was the most democratic convention I've ever had the opportunity to report on. It was absolutely not a question of your color; and the accent was placed on ability and honesty of purpose.

If you are a wage earner, as I've said before, check carefully on the aims and objectives of labor unions. In all fairness to yourself.

351-1942
Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

CIO

CIO Auto Workers Make Strong Demands On Negro War Job Issue

By GEORGE F. McCRAY
(Defender Labor Editor)

An effective program to smash discrimination against Negro defense workers was the big issue at the C.I.O. auto workers' union convention meeting at the Sherman hotel in Chicago last week.

On no other issue did powerful unions have to take [illegible] floor and "clarify" in self defense, their attitude toward the employment and promotion of Negro workers.

Negro delegates supported by white progressives literally turned on the heat.

Reject Weak Resolution

The fireworks started when 1,600 Negro and white delegates representing over 600.000 Negro and white auto workers in [illegible] United States and Canada and some of the largest defense plants in the world, brushed aside a weak proposal from their resolutions committee and demanded a program with "teeth" in it for getting jobs for Negroes in defense industries.

Two Negro delegates, Shelton Tappes, recording secretary of the powerful Ford local with 85,000 members, and Horace Sheffield, international union representative, led the attack on the resolution.

They were assisted by Board Member Montgomery, regional director of the union and chairman of the anti-discrimination committee of the State Industrial Union Council of California.

"We are going to prove to the Negro workers and the Negro people that resolutions are not enough," Montgomery told the delegates. "We are tired of resolutions, we are going to do something about it."

Tappes and Sheffield appeared before the convention and various committees and reported how "hate strikes" had been engaged in by union members for the purpose of preventing the employment and promotion of Negro defense workers.

Such disturbances had occurred in the following cases:

1. Workers in the General Motors plant in Flint, Mich., opposed introduction of Negro workers into new jobs.
2. The strike at the Packard plant in Detroit against promotion of Negro workers.
3. The strike at the Dodge tank plant in Detroit against hiring Negro workers.
4. The strike at the Hudson Naval Ordance plant against hiring Negro workers.

Similar disturbances had occurred in Toledo and Cleveland, Ohio. The charge was made that in most plants under contract with the auto workers union, Negro workers still remain employed solely in menial jobs in spite of ability, qualifications, and years of service.

Want Resolution With Teeth

A total of [illegible] resolutions, coming mainly from Chicago, Detroit and South Bend, Ind., and dealing with various phases of the problem of discrimination against Negroes, were sent to the resolutions committee weeks before the convention opened.

The latter committee reported a condensed resolution which merely reaffirmed the no-discrimination policy of the union.

Opening the debate on the subject, President R. J. Thomas warned the delegates not to vote for a no-discrimination resolution unless they intended to abide by it.

He reported having received letters from persons threatening to defeat him for re-election if he did not soft-pedal the race issue.

Said he: "Rather than receiving these letters from local unions castigating myself on this particular issue, for God's sake, don't be a hypocrite on this issue. If there are delegates in this convention who do not agree with this position, have guts enough to stand on this convention floor and say so."

After Thomas spoke Negro and white delegates ripped into the resolution and condemned it as being inadequate and without teeth.

In an eloquent address Horace Sheffield solidified opposition to the resolution when he declared, "We don't want anything negative anymore, we want a positive measure and we want some sort of machinery established that will effectuate the complete integration of Negro workers not only into defense work but into this union."

By a [illegible] vote the resolution was overwhelmingly rejected and sent back to the resolutions committee. On the following Friday a substitute resolution was reported out.

The resolution as finally approved definitely commits the union to a policy of action. It calls for an investigation of the Ku Klux Klan, which organization instigated much of the opposition against Negro workers; that the Fair Employment Practices committee be given power to enforce its own decisions.

Within its own ranks, the union, according to the resolution, will take the necessary steps to bring about the introduction of Negro workers into plants where none are now employed, and shall designate a number of plants and factories at which it shall undertake to secure the employment of Negro women.

To make this policy of no-discrimination maximumly effective, the union is directed to establish power-to-act committees.

These committees will have full authority to do whatever they think best to remove union barriers to the employment of Negro defense workers.

Further [illegible] union was ordered to launch an educational and publicity campaign inside and outside the union to win union members and the American people to the support of a no-discrimination program.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

CIO Union Calls Off Its Convention When Hotels Refuse to Admit Negroes

AUG 15 1942

Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers With 400,000 Members Take Decisive Step

Labor took a firm stand this week in making an effort to help America rid itself of discrimination, segregation and jim-crowism, when the national officers of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, CIO, with headquarters at 261 Fifth Avenue, called off their national convention scheduled to be held in Indianapolis beginning Labor Day, due to the refusal of hotels to rent rooms and give dining room service to Negro members.

Up to press time, Wednesday, the officers of the union which comprises more than 400,000 members had not decided upon the next convention place.

Do Right or Else

In a wire to the hotel management and city officials, the union executives said:

"This union is not only one hundred percent opposed to such discriminatory practices, but is making in the plants and shops of our industry a big contribution to the whole fight against this and all other forms of Fascism.

"We do not intend to bargain on this issue with the hotel proprietors of Indianapolis or any other city. Either they do the right and American thing, or else.'

Officers of the union are Albert P. Fitzgerald, president; Julius Emspack, secretary treasurer and James J. Matlas, director of organization.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

AUG 29 1942

C.I.O. ACTS

CAYTON GIVES SOME GOOD ADVICE TO PHIL MURRAY'S COMMITTEE; URGES NEGRO-LABOR ALLIANCE

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

AT LAST Phil Murray and the CIO have decided to take some action on the very pressing problem of Negro employment and the economic position of the Negro population. It's about time. I know that the CIO has been faced with lots of problems and that Mr. Murray has been harassed by John L. Lewis, but after what is happening in India it seems that a lot of people should wake up to the fact that the Negro is the United States' number-one internal problem.

Mr. Cayton

But there's no need of fussing about what has not been done. What I want to do is to give a little advice to the CIO committee about what should be done now.

Murray just a few days ago appointed Willard S. Townsend, president of the United Transport Workers of America, and James B. Carey, secretary of the CIO, as a committee of two to study the problem and work out a plan of action for the Congress. Most of the credit for the appointment of this committee should go to Willard S. Townsend who has just been appointed a member of the Executive Committee of the CIO. What I want to do is to pass on a little advice to these gentlemen and indirectly to Mr. Murray as to what type of report they should bring in and especially what attitude they should take toward the problem.

NEED ALLIANCE

I think it should first be stated that neither the CIO nor this committee should take a patronizing attitude toward the Negro and feel that they are going to do something for the "brother in black." Labor's back is against the wall and Murray and the rest of them know it. They need allies and they need them badly and the Negro is the natural ally for labor as they both have common enemies. The same reactionary anti-Negro southerners are the labor-baiters in Congress who are causing labor so much difficulty.

THE poll tax is the most important mechanism for keeping trade-unionism out of the South. In both instances a united front against reaction would strengthen the Negro and organize labor. So I hope that Mr. Murray and Mr. Carey understand this and try to form an alliance between labor and the Negro people rather than weep crocodile tears about the plight of the black worker and make pious promises about what they are going to do in the future. Willard Townsend should sit on that committee as a full equal because he is not only a member of the Executive Committee of the CIO but because he represents thirteen million Negroes, constituting one of the few groups in the country with common interests in fighting southern reaction.

SOME TIPS

The committee is to report back to Mr. Murray and the CIO in six weeks. That is a short period in which to work out a program. So I want to give them a few tips as to what to include in their program. They have got to face the problem, and I have said this so many times before, of breaking down the prejudice of white workers and the fear and indifference toward unionism which exists in the Negro community. An educational campaign throughout all the unions should be immediately instituted which would point out the possibilities for great achievement if Negroes could be won over to full, whole-hearted support to labor movement and the dangers involved if they are not.

FURTHER, union officials all the way down the line have got to wield the big stick when recalcitrant white workers go on strike when their black brothers are assigned to the assembly line. They have also go to enlist the aid of the Negro newspaper, as well as all other organizations, if they wish to develop a favorable public opinion toward and trust in the labor movement in the black ghettos of the country.

CAN AFFECT NEEDED CHANGES

Then, there is the problem of political action. I have said before that labor should be lobbying and fighting for social legislation which would protect the Negro in its own self-interest. In doing that they should clearly realize that they are not doing the Negro any favor but are saving their own skins by making an alliance with this powerful minority.

I DON'T think I should do any more of the work of the committee nor do I have space if I were so inclined. But the point is this—a liberal labor-Negro alliance is possible and it seems to me, and it should seem to Phil Murray, that that is the only way we can fight the fascism of Hitler and the reaction of our own politicians. If the committee approaches their task with this in mind—comes in the court of equity with clean hands and mind—this committee can be the instrument for effecting a fundamental change in the body politic of the country.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

SEP 12 1942

LABOR MOVES FORWARD

65

The C.I.O. is coming forward as the foremost organization in the country in the fight for equality of job opportunity for Negroes.

The stand taken by the Auto Workers union in Detroit around the battle to place Negroes in the Sojourner Truth government-built housing project is well-known. That the same union took a relentless stand against some backward white workers who sought to prevent Negro workers from securing skilled jobs in Detroit defense plants has not been sufficiently popularized. The refusal of the Electric, Radio and Machine C.I.O. group to hold their national convention in Indianapolis because of the jim-crow policy of the hotel managers is another forward step by this labor body to destroy jim-crowism and segregation. The undeviating fight of the National Maritime union to protect the rights of Negro seamen is an outstanding example of the role of labor.

This fight against the color-bar in industry is the role labor should play. It is a splendid thing that organized labor is developing this struggle during the war period. Democracy is at stake. As labor advances to fight the battle of these victims of un-American practices, it fights the battle of human freedom against Hitler. Even the A.F.L. is moving somewhat. On the West Coast its mechanics have admitted Negro workers.

Now comes C.I.O. President Philip Murray to appoint a C.I.O. committee "to investigate and study the entire problem of equality of opportunity for Negro workers in American industry." This committee can be a splendid aid to the Fair Employment Practices committee created by President Roosevelt. It is indeed an historic forward move.

James B. Carey and Willard S. Townsend, president of the United Transport Service Employees, better known as the "Redcaps," who constitute the committee have a grave responsibility. The investigation must be national in scope and thorough.

The forces which are behind the fascist "League for White Supremacy" have to be ferreted out. This murderous clique, with Governors Dixon and Talmadge fronting for it, is responsible for the difficulties of war production in the South. It is moving forward to incite bloody racial clashes. Its traitorous purpose is clear. It is out for a Hitler victory. Let labor take it apart and see what makes it tick.

Negro America must not only watch this C.I.O. committee, it must get behind it. The creation of the committee reflects labor's understanding of its war responsibilities.

We can lose this war through the refusal of some industrialists who want to continue jim-crow as usual. They must be determinedly fought. We as a group of Negro Americans cannot win the battle for our human rights alone. In fact the whole system of jim-crow and segregation is the concern of every section of national unity. In particular it is the concern of labor whose stake in the war cannot be overestimated.

The Defender welcomes the advance of labor on this front of democracy.

35i-1942

C.I.O.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Will CIO-AFL Unity Be Good for Negroes?

DEC 25 1942

BY GEORGE F. McCRAY.

When unity negotiations opened between the CIO and the AFL in Washington on Dec. 1, Negro union official holding a key position in the CIO's United Steel-workers of America declared:

"Frankly, I don't want to see peace between the CIO and the AFL for some time to come. Sure, they should cooperate to win the war," he went on, "but I don't want to see complete unity. It's sad but true; negroes never get very much until white folks fall out and start fighting . . . look at the Civil war and what's been happening in the labor movement for the last five years!"

Despite this attitude, which is held by many Negroes with whom I have discussed the matter, CIO-AFL unity is critically important to all labor and particularly to Negro labor. Responsible officials in both the CIO and the AFL are fully aware of the imperative need for unity.

Stepping Toward Unity

To overcome vital weaknesses in the defense program, which weaknesses have been caused by the complete exclusion of labor from responsible administrative posts in the War Production board, the CIO and the AFL have tentatively agreed to establish a joint committee to iron out jurisdictional disputes between their various unions. More significant was Phil Murray's support of teamster Dan Tobin as labor director for the defense effort.

This move as I said before possesses the very greatest significance. Tobin is not only president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, but is also an AFL vice-president.

Only a few months ago it was generally understood that Tobin had joined hands with John L. Lewis and Bill Hutchinson, president of the Carpenter's union and also another AFL vice-president.

These three giants seem to have concocted an illegitimate scheme to ease both Bill Green and Phil Murray out of the leadership of the AFL and the CIO. This support of Tobin by Murray definitely brings Tobin into the labor unity camp leaving John L. Lewis blustering isolation.

750,000 Negroes Affected

These proceedings are important not only to nearly 750,000 organized Negro workers in the United States, but to 5,500,000 gainfully employed Negroes. In these behind the scenes battles the Negro has a world to gain or lose.

First, CIO-AFL rivalry is no longer beneficial to the Negro worker. A few years ago these union rivalry in such industries as steel, packing, automobile, shipbuilding, and farm equipment for example, caused special attention to be given to the organization of Negro workers by both organizations. As a result tens of thousands of Negroes were brought into the labor movement.

The entrance of so many Negroes into the unions was beneficial not only to the Negro worker but to the whole labor movement. In the process of winning them over, Negroes and white workers learned that all workers can secure for themselves and their families higher wages, better working conditions and a higher standard of living through collective bargaining open to all workers regardless of color. This realization seems to have softened and made more tolerable prevailing attitudes of whites and Negroes toward each other.

Today the reverse of this type of education is occurring with alarming frequency. The evidence indicates that racial antagonisms are being stirred up to prevent white workers from joining CIO and a few AFL unions. Quite frequently one encounters such expressions as:

"You don't want to join a union with n . . . . officers in it, do you?"

"That union will put n . . . .s in this plant working beside white women."

"This is a white man's union, only n . . . .s join the . . . ."

"If you don't want to see n . . . .s come in and take your job vote for . . . "

Almost any union organizer, north or south, can report similar remarks and actions that accompany them. The situation is greatly aggravated by demand of defense production that Negroes be introduced into many jobs, plants and localities where few were before the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Danger of Unity

Despite all this, the Negro worker nor the Negro labor leader and their white friends need not feel that everythi must be sacrificed in a panic search to reunite the CIO a the AFL! For in spite of t fanning of the race issue C unions are generally successf in their efforts to win the su port of a majority of white wor ers for a no-discrimination po icy. We can thank God for th common sense of the majorit of white workers.

As the progressive, with-the war forces seek unity, they mus prevent any weakening or com promise of the aggressive and constructive attitude of the CIO on prejudice and discrimination. oposed to the scenes of en Within the framework of a united labor movement there is greater danger that the attitude of the AFL on racial labor unity will predominate.

The AFL has buck-passing, do-nothing attitude. It should be fought ceaselessly. In substance it says: "Racial discrimination is deplorable, but the labor movement is not responsible for it. We wish it did not exist, but, really brother, there is nothing we should do about it. Be patient, progress is slow."

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Move to Get Negro Players In Majors Fails

By International News Service

Chicago, Dec. 3.—Efforts of the C. I. O. to gain an audience before the joint meeting of the American and National Baseball Leagues in behalf of Negro baseball players were marked as a failure tonight.

A committee of ten C. I. O. representatives was turned away by Judge K. M. Landis because the 30-day notice was not given.

Herb March, one of the committeemen and a representative of the Steel Workers' Organizing Committee, told the press in effect that Negroes should have a chance to display their talents in organized baseball.

Dec. 4, 1942

He added that with the Negroes fighting shoulder to shoulder with white troops and working with white men in the war plants it was only fair that they should be given a chance to play ball with them.

The opening for the Negroes came last year when President William Benswanger of the Pittsburgh club said Negroes would be given tryouts with his team. However, nothing ever came of the proposal.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
December 11, 1942

N. M. U. for Job Equality

To The News and Courier:

We have followed with keen interest your long range debate with Witherspoon Dodge, of the Greenville C. I. O. Textile Workers union relative to the question as to whether the C. I. O. would demand the admission of skilled negro textile workers into a Greenville cotton mill if the mill was in need of workers.

The C. I. O. and its members realize that to lose this war means an end to the American way of life. The C. I. O. urges upon its members the need for full production in order to implement our armed forces in their valiant struggle against Hitlerism. The C. I. O. also realizes the necessity of adequate living standards for those who are our production soldiers. will enable our production workers to turn out the material for the full prosecution of the war as demanded by our commander-in-chief, President Roosevelt.

We recently attended a discussion called by the president's war manpower commission. The members of the commission for the state of South Carolina stated that the manpower situation is critical. They pointed out that one of the few remaining sources of manpower supply are the minority groups. We know that the largest minority group in the nation is the negro, who constitutes one-tenth of the population. The C. I. O. believes that this group should be allowed to make their greatest contribution to the war effort by placing them in industry where they can serve to the fullest extent of their capabilities. We believe that to keep a negro in a menial position, when he has the necessary skill, training and ability to fill a productive position is, to put it mildly, helping Hitler.

The C. I. O. has fought for the right of the colored man to sail with his white brothers across the seas and deliver the goods of victory to our armies and Allies on the fighting fronts. The proof of this is the fact that over 400 colored men have died doing this job, victims of the dive-bombers and the submarines. Does The News and Courier deny the right of the colored man to spill his blood on North African sands in defense of the Atlantic Charter? Does The News and Courier believe that the Atlantic Charter was written for foreign consumption only? If not, then The News and Courier must believe, as the C. I. O. does, that the world and, in the spirit of this great document, all peoples, regardless of race, creed, color or national origin must be encouraged to make their greatest contribution to the United Nations war effort by integrating them into industries to the fullest extent of their capabilities.

Yes, the C. I. O. would advocate that the skilled negro workers be admitted into a Greenville cotton mill alongside of their white brothers, in accordance with the policy as stated above.

ARTHUS E. O'DAY,
Patrolman, N. M. U.-C. I. O.
FRANK HARGROVE,
International Representative,
U. C. A. P. A. W. A.-C. I. O.
~~Charleston.~~

351-1942

C.I.O.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro Rally To Back CIO's Swift Co. Drive

JAN 2 - 1942

Davis to Address Chicago Mass Meeting

(Special to the Daily Worker)

CHICAGO, Jan. 1.—A mass meeting in support of the CIO's drive to organize the workers of the Swift Packing Co. will be held Sunday at 3 P. M. at the Greater Bethesda Baptist Church, 53d St. and Michigan Ave., under the auspices of the Chicago Council of the National Negro Congress.

With John P. Davis, national secretary of the National Negro Congress as principal speaker, the topic will be "The War, the Negro and the CIO."

32

Swift workers will hold a National Labor Board election on January 9.

JAN 2 - 1942

Other speakers include Mrs. Irene McCoy Gaines, President of the Chicago Council of Negro Organizations, Rev. Ross D. Brown, Pastor of Truth Seekers' Temple; J. C. Lewis, National Director, CIO Packinghouse Workers' Organizing Committee; Owensby Lee, President of the CIO Swift local; Ramon Martinez, Organizer of the Packinghouse Workers' Organizing Committee and Ishmael P. Flory, Field Organizer of the Chicago Council of the National Negro Council and representative of the CIO National Die Casters' Union.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

LABOR AND INDUSTRY

Race Dominates This CIO Local

FEB 22 1942

A FEW WEEKS ago a report came out of Washington reporting that a CIO union in Chicago had subscribed to $150,000 worth of defense bonds. The workers had agreed to allow their employer to withhold over 11 percent of their wages for the purchase of defense bonds in their names.

Indeed, I thought a group of workers who could make such a genuinely patriotic contribution certainly would have a faith in democracy which would transcend racial and religious prejudices. Surely here would be a group of workers who would fight to democratize national defense, who would fight to give every man a fair opportunity to make his maximum contribution to the defense of his country. Certainly here must be a group of workers who not only believe in giving the enemy both barrels, but who must desire to see every other worker on the firing line. Here is what I found:

NEGRO DEFENSE WORKERS:

Investigation revealed that the employes involved work for one of the largest defense contractors in the Chicago area; that all of them nearly one thousand, are members of a local of the Steel Workers Organizing committee and that this same local conducted one of the biggest sit-down strikes in the Chicago area a few years ago. In fact, it was one of the most successful sit-downs conducted in Illinois.

FEB 22 1942

Though only 450 of the 1,000 workers in the plant are Negroes, of whom 230 are women, the president of the union and many of its responsible officials are young, hard hitting Negroes. These Negroes work at every job in the plant from janitors to forming and welding machine and crane operators. At the top of the pile are six Negro foremen and group leaders supervising Negro and white skilled and semi-skilled workers.

Lucius Love, deacon in the Baptist church, and president of the union, was pressed for an explanation of the unusual jobs held by Negroes in this particular defense plant. His answer was simple. They have a rigid seniority clause in their contract with the company; they have a union strong enough to make the seniority clause work. Moreover the Negroes see to it that the union remains strong and willing to enforce every provision of the contract. This arrangement has proved of great value to Negro-white workers alike.

NEGROES REMAIN

After having heard so much about the way Negroes are being pushed around in defense industries, I gladly told a friend of the very excellent work Lucius Love, deacon and tenor in the Baptist church, was doing. "That's nothing," said Roscoe Foster, president of another SWOC local, "at the place where I work priorities forced the company to lay off all but fifty men; even some of the bosses' relatives were laid off. The fifty men who remained are all Negroes."

FEB 22 1942

Those Negro steamfitters and plumbers in Chicago, who for some mysterious reason, were not called at the FEPC hearings in Chicago present evidence of discrimination against them by the lily-white AFL steamfitters and plumbers unions, were summoned to far-off Washington to present their case on February 19. Of course, this is better than nothing, but the FEPC could not do better if it made a deliberate attempt to stifle whatever complaint the men have to make.

First, the committee expects unemployed men to come to Washington, the most extravagant place in the United States, to present a complaint which could have been more effectively presented in Chicago while the committee was making investigations on the spot. Secondly, the competition of news coming out of Washington is so intense that anything a few unemployed Negro plumbers and steamfitters might say will be generally overlooked.

FEB 22 1942

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Elect Negro To Upstate CIO Council

FEB 22 1942

Delegates Vow to Mak Their Organization a 'War Council'

(Special to the Sunday Worker)

BUFFALO, Feb. 21.— For the first time a Negro has been elected to the executive board of the Erie County Industrial Union Council.

He is Suel Jackson of the Fur & Leather Workers Union, an employe of Zeller Tannery, who was chosen Tuesday night at an overflow meeting of the council One-hundred and twenty-five delegates, representing 80,000 workers, chose their leaders for the coming year in an election marked by close rivalry for key positions.

FEB 22 1942

Labor leaders believed that it was the first time in Western New York that a Negro had been elected to the governing body of a central labor union, CIO, AFL or otherwise.

The election meeting closed with a plea by Regional Director Hugh Thompson for more production and an end to complacency as he installed the officers. Heading the slate is Harold J. Garno of Local 424, U.A.W., re-elected for his second term. Others are vice president, Thomas F. Casey, SWOC; secretary, Alfred G Larke, American Newspaper Guild; financial secretary Ruth Halton, UAW; treasurer, Walter E. Shanaman, SWOC; sergeant-at-arms, Joseph Kowalski, Flat Glass Workers; trustee, Francis W. Jung, United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers; members-at-large, M. Jackson, and Charles E. Hallett Jr. Miss Halton is the second woman to serve on the executive board.

Mr. Thompson attacked the local Bell and Curtiss airplane factories for operating on a "five-day week."

FEB 22 1942

"We're too smug, too self-centered, too complacent," he warned. "Let's forget about defense. Let's take the offensive in this crisis. Let's go after the Axis with all we've got. Let's have production. Let's sell bonds, let's knock hell out of those forces who dared to attack our American way of life," he said.

"We must not have just a general staff of English - speaking people. We must take into consideration the Russian Army, which is carrying the brunt of the European attack. We must take into consideration the Filipinos, and all those nationalities that are fighting the same battle as we are.

FEB 22 1942

"We're in a war, but we're not taking it seriously enough. The national defense bond sale should be doubled. Make this CIO council a 'war council' and get going on the question of all-out aid, defense and war production."

C.I.O. WAR

LEWIS-MURRAY SPLIT MAY BENEFIT RACE WORKERS IF THEY MAKE DEMANDS

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

Pittsburgh Courier

I SEE by the papers that there is disagreement in the ranks of the CIO. At present it looks like John L. Lewis and his omnipotent District 50, which he has given jurisdiction to organize anything he wants organized, are moving in on Phil Murray's Steel Workers' Organizing Committee. In turn, Mr. Murray is retaliating by challenging Lewis' leadership in the United Mine Workers. It is going to be a knock-down, drag out fight because Lewis is after Murray's job as vice-president of the United Mine Workers, the only paying job that Murray has. What Lewis wants is control of the entire labor movement and he is willing to make a bargain with such reactionary AFL leaders as Hutchinson of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners. Murray is flirting with the more liberal elements of the AFL such as John J. Kane of the Printing Pressmen's Union.

Mr. Cayton

OLD UNION LINES WILL DISAPPEAR

Pittsburgh, Pa.

You can take this for a prediction—that the division between the CIO and the AFL, theoretically based on the difference between craft and industrial unions, is rapidly being wiped out. What we are going to have in the future is the alignment of "progressive" unions as opposed to "reactionary" unions. This division of craft and industrial groups, never very real, has gone by the boards in the light of philosophic and poltical positions.

BOTH sides have strength and weaknesses. Lewis has pretty well purged the United Mine Workers and even though Murray is popular among the rank and file, I doubt that he can do much to capture the organization. On the other hand, in spite of the inroads which Lewis has made in the Steel Workers' Organizing Committee, the evidence which has come out at the Pennsylvania Industrial Union Council of the CIO last week, indicates that Murray is riding high in that organization.

IT IS going to be a nasty mess and will give the entire labor movement a black eye. As far as I can see it is going to be a stalemate, at least for the time being. Lewis won't be able to displace Murray in the SWOC although he may be able to turn over Phil's job in the UMW to John O'Leary who is at present a member of that union's international executive board. The result may be that the SWOC and probably most of the CIO will line up solidly against the miners with Murray in charge of the offensive.

RACE WORKERS VITAL FACTOR

This is important to us as the interests of Negroes are so definitely connected with the success of the labor movement in general and as there are approximately 200,000 Negroes in the CIO, but primarily because the two unions in question have many Negro members. There are between 30,000 and 40,000 Negro steel workers and 50,000 Negro miners. As I have said on many occasions, these men have gotten a better break from the CIO than from any previous labor organization. However, even in that most liberal group, they have not attained the positions of leadership which their numbers and importance deserve. Regrettable as is this fight, it is probable that both sides will make advances to the Negro members in order to line them up. These advances will be promises of seniority rights, more representation in union affairs, and greater representation in the hierachy of the CIO itself.

THERE is no need for Negro workers to start crying over spilt milk and passively bemoaning the fact that Lewis is trying to disrupt the American Labor Movement. The thing to do is to realize that either way it goes—Lewis or Murray—there will be a fundamental realignment in the labor movement of the country. Now is the time to make both sides bid for Negro support and now is the time to formulate the things which the Negro workers really want. Instead of waiting to see which side will offer what, black workers should state what they want and make the labor unions meet the price.

SWOC TO GET ANTI-BIAS PLEA

I understand that a group of Negro steel workers is going to present a resolution to the SWOC at its national convention to be held in Cleveland in the middle of May demanding that all future contracts contain the provision that there should be no discrimination in hiring, and that a certain percentage of Negroes be included in the working forces of each plant.

IT HAS always been the argument of industrialists that Negroes and whites would not work together. If these steel workers insist upon including these clauses in the contracts they bargain for, it will do much to break down this idea. How forcefully they put forth their demands and how successful they are, I will let you know from the convention in a couple of weeks.

Greenville, S. C. Observer
May 22, 1942

CIO Organizes Negroes Here At V-C Company

United Mine Workers Local Exclusive Bargaining Agent For Employees

District 50 of the United Mine Workers, a unit of the CIO has succeeded in organizing workers at the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Corporation, eighty per cent of whom are negroes, it has been announced by J. R. Cope, organizer for the union.

The V-C plant in Greenville has nine white and 50 negro workers. Under the terms of the contract signed by the UMW local and the management of the plant, all negro workers and three white employees are bound to accept the union as exclusive bargaining agent.

This is the first case in Greenville history where a union contract has been entered with a local the majority of whose members are negroes.

Under the terms of the contract, the UMW local is certified by the company as exclusive bargaining agent for all covered employees and a voluntary check-off system whereby the union collects dues from the workers by payroll deduction upon assignment is established.

The contract marks the second CIO contract to be signed by a Greenville industry.

District 50 of the United Mine Workers is a comparative newcomer to the field of big-time organized labor. It is led by Kathryn Lewis, daughter of John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers and a former president of the CIO. District 50 has received nationwide publicity in recent months in its attempt to create a third major labor organization, and particularly in its attempt to organize farmers in the East and Midwest.

Lewis and his faction, ousted from control of the CIO after a break with President Roosevelt in the last campaign, have expanded the scope of the United Mine Workers by defining a mine worker as any worker who uses products of the mine. District 50 has sought to organize such divergent groups as meat-packers, wood processors, embalmers, farmers and dairymen under its expansion program.

Last week Life magazine, referring to the emergence of this aggressive organization, had this to say: "Mr. Murray's attitude (in reaction to the President's request that labor accept the sacrifice of future wage increases) was disappointing. Harassed by the wordy John L. Lewis and his tiresome daughter Kathryn, who were playing union politics on the edge of the abyss, Mr. Murray backed the President with words but fell far short with deeds."

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro Congress Hails Steel Workers Union

MAY 24 1942

"Only the strongest unity between labor and the 13,000,000 Negro people can destroy the pro-fascists and the disrupters of labor unity whose lust for power blinds them to the supreme danger facing our country today," the National Negro Congress declared in a telegram of greeting to the United Steel Workers of America convention in Cleveland.

The telegram, signed by Dr. Max Yergan, president of the National Negro Congress, was addressed to President Philip Murray of the CIO and president of the steel union. It declared:

"The National Negro Congress extends greetings in the name of victory to the first constitutional convention of the United Steel Workers of America, CIO. With pride born of our long participation in the struggles of Negro and white steel workers, we hail your victory Pledge to the President; which recognizes the obligation of every leader, institution and organization to unite and work together to win the war.

"In the fullest expression of that pledge, we urge you and the officers and members of the United Steel Workers of America, CIO, to strike out boldly against every type of discrimination which prevents total use of Negro manpower in the nation's production-for-victory drive. Only the strongest unity between labor and the thirteen million Negro people can destroy the pro-fascists and the disrupters of labor unity whose lust for power blinds them to the supreme danger facing our country today.

MAY 24 1942

"We pledge the fullest support of our organization to that leadership for victory in the war and unity in labor which you, as President of the CIO, are giving to our country today."

351-1942
The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

GENERAL

Workers Correspondence

JUN 1 - 1942

(351)

Clean Up Southern Locals, Painter Asks

Painters union locals in New York have discussed in detail the difficulties of working in other States. It is claimed that New Yorkers are disliked, but no reasons are given.

These dislikes can be traced to one thing — the selfish petty politics played by officers of local unions and Business Agents, who wish to create a hardship in labor procurement so that they can open the books to anyone for $50 or how much the traffic can stand.

The General Executive Board has gone on record to stop this practice. Defense jobs must be manned by union men. Books are closed until all men are absorbed. But this decision is not being lived up to in many cases.

In Nolfolk, many New York men had occasion to find work. On one particular job, a huge project of demountable homes for Negro project workers, we found that no Negro painters were allowed to work. Some of the Negro painters from New York tried to get jobs there and when white union men from New York were seen talking to these brothers, remarks like "Negro-lovers" were heard coming from the leaders of Local 1100 which has jurisdiction over this job, contracted by Barret and Help, San Francisco Painter Contractors.

The president of this local, Mr. Dugan, is proud of his KKK insignia tatooed on his hand. When asked why Negroes cannot work on this job, he became indignant. "You all knows that we can't mix here. n....r and white can't be on our job." But on the non-union defense jobs going up in Norfolk, Negro and white are working side by side.

This same local, headed by a Klansman has opened up the books for all to join. They fear the influence of the North and in order to keep Northerners away start propaganda that New York men are speed artists, that they are Jews, and "Negro-lovers." The truth is that the majority of the native painters on defense jobs have just become painters, and their production is low. So when New York painters come to work the difference between a skilled painter from the big cities and an unskilled painter from Virginia becomes apparent. One can ~~readily see how these preju~~dices and trade unionism-as-usual-policy of the officials in the Southern locals harms the interests of national defense. It creates jurisdictional disputes and in Goebbels-like style separates the Jew from the Gentile, the Negro from the white, and Catholic from Protestant.

This situation is known to all agencies of the Government and Union, but eyes are closed and mouths are shut. People like Klansman Dugan can be expelled under Section 107D of our constitution of the Brotherhood of Painters which states, "**Any** member who associates himself with an organization or any group that expounds or promotes any doctrines or philosophy inimical to or subversive of the fundamental ~~principles~~ and institutions of the Government of the United States . . ., etc., if found guilty cannot be eligible or become a member of the Brotherhood."

I believe that our Executive Board should investigate conditions in the South. I believe that Fair Employment Practices Committee should investigate these violations of our country's mandate.

The organized labor movement in the South, the AFL and CIO can do a lot to clean up the mess existing in the South, and in this way make an everlasting contribution to national unity.

The Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers cannot, in the interest of national defense, keep its eyes shut.

M. D.

Birmingham Post
Birmingham, Alabama

Pegler

Law Against Spying On Labor Unions Should Be Repealed

JUN 16 1942

By Westbrook Pegler

NEW YORK, June 16.—The law forbidding employers and others to spy on those political organizations known as labor unions, which have private taxing powers and their own private laws and courts, is a dangerous law and should be repealed.

There is no reason why these political groups, with their great powers and their over-all record of ruthless criminality and oppression, should be given the protection of a Federal law which attempts to preserve the dark secrecy that all conspirators and thieves prefer.

No other element in our whole nation enjoys such protection. Although there is no other element whose evil record so urgently demands that its conduct be carefully watched at all times in the public interest including, most imperatively, the interest of the workers.

* * *

Hidden Facts Are Revealed

I have not heard whether Sen. Robert M. La Follette intends to proceed against me for investigating union affairs, often with the assistance of men within the unions, but if he should call me before his left wing Dies Committee of the Senate, I would cheerfully say that I have had thousands of communications from union members revealing otherwise hidden facts of misconduct within the ruling group of unions.

And have I been guilty of spying in passing information to these public officials and even to employers so that the employers might protect their legitimate interests and the workers in their employ? Because, if so, let La Follette call the wagon, for I have done just that and intend to continue to do so.

Reason Is Political

I have before me at this moment a copy of the Office and Professional News, the publication of the Office Clerks' Union of the CIO. This and the CIO communications union, composed of wire and wireless telegraph operators and teletype operators, are two of the most dangerous organizations in the country, from the standpoint of espionage. Between them they have access to correspondence, books and business secrets of the companies which employ their members and to great proportion of all the confidential wire an wireless messages, not only of companies and individuals, but of the Government as well.

Well, the office and professional news will give you an idea how red is the Office Workers' Union. This paper carries an advertisement for the Communist Party's official organ and a display story ~~shouting~~ up the demand of the party-line New York Newspaper Guild, that my copy be excluded from the Stars and Stripes. It also contains a ballyhood story for a recent Community Party line movie called Native Land and a cheer for the release of Earl Browder and a proposal that each member of the union be assessed one hour's pay per month for Russian war relief and for no other relief.

Does Senator La Follette or anyone else believe that such an organization would forbear to engage in espionage against the employers of office workers, having access to the employers confidential affairs?

There is no longer any doubt that the political party for which this union shows such a strong devotion is an anti-American conspiracy.

If you back off and take an objective look you must realize that the only reason why spying on unions is forbidden is a political reason, for Mr. Biddle, in another announcement a short while before his Bridges opinion, acknowledged that the unions with their vast treasuries and taxing powers are political agencies of the party in power.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

A Favored Class

Labor unions are among the biggest businesses in the United States. Their total income from initiation fees and monthly dues, reaches an astronomical figure.

These unions, however, are very different in certain vital respects from other enterprises. They are not subject to regulation. They do not have to register with the government or make periodical financial statements. Their take is not subject to taxation.

Spokesmen for labor have bitterly fought the mildest proposals for requiring the unions to register with government, and to publish public statements of their financial standing, as required of other business. The unions demand special privileges not accorded other business. They want to remain the favored class.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Labor's Front

By J. Robert Smith

MANY TIMES have I wondered about the many mixed and shady organizations that are tangling up and complicating the Harlem labor front. I have often wondered if all of the whites and the Negroes, too, for that matter, are truly sincere in their loud-mouthings and rantings on the rights of the common working man. Too long has it been apparent that some Negroes are Negroes only because their color keeps them thus, and they find it financially expedient to be such. Mix these up with whites who have ulterior motives in joining Negro movements and you have the elements of a traitorous set-up which bodes no good for the Negro laborer.

Mr. Smith

The Negro's hope for recognition in the labor movement must be kept in the hands of tried and true leaders as A. Philip Randolph, of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; Walter Noah, Laundry Workers Union; Thomas Young and Herrel Green, Building Service Union; E. Williams, Plasterers and Drillers Union; Frank Crosswaith, Harlem Labor Center; Edith Ransom, International Ladies Garment Workers Union and other battle-scarred veterans in the fight to put the Negro on an equal standing with the rest of the nation's under-privileged minorities.

This, of course, precludes any integration of whites who have no business in our midst, and Negroes who, like vipers, sting us when held closely to the racial bosom.

Unwelcomed Leaders

I have always held it extremely worthless and dangerous for a Negro to wander away from the racial fold like the Prodigal Son, when his stomach is full, then gets hungry or roundly booted by his newly-found "friends," and hurries home when the rain begins to fall. You either have to be a "full" Negro or "no" Negro at all. There is no room among us for those whose loyalty we cannot vouchsafe at a glance. Those who flirt with the other side by day and skulk home to the domestic racial hearth by night, must not come to us when they are set adrift and when the whites are no longer amused by their antics. We need every available display of talent that our people have to offer; we need their energy, their advice, their love and devotion to us and our cause, but at the same time we do not need their empty, sapped and profligate leadership after they had given their all to the other side. During the days of plenty, they knew us not; we have never even heard of their names; they lived not among us, they wined and danced in other regions, now that the days are lean, we cannot accept their bid for first places in our ranks in the field of labor.

And while speaking about the backsliders, Harlem Negroes are still up in air about the forces who tried to sabotage their Madison Square Garden meeting. It was the time when they needed friends, it was a golden opportunity for those who always are beating their breasts and claiming that they were in our corner to have come forth and joined the ranks by offering even their moral support. But no. Instead they made every effort to confuse the Harlemite by their subtle wiles and undermining trickeries. The "isms" were brought into play, one against the other. The Negro was in the middle. That was one time he stuck together and accomplished much in little.

Needs All Assistance

In the battle, the race is willing to accept the assistance of any and all groups; it wants no enemies; but in accepting aid, it also desires to have the right and privilege of owning and operating its own machinery. Other minorities have been successful in this method so can the Negro. He is becoming a staunch believer in trade unionism; he knows that labor is his only salvation. In attaining this objective, however, there should be no sale and no life-long political obligation that would tie his hands and movements forever.

The Negro is making strides in the labor movement. He is slowly and patiently coming to realize its benefits. He needs to be hastened on his way. In the movement, he still has to keep his eyes open and see that he is not retarded for political and selfish reasons by whites and his own people.

According to Willard S. Townsend, international president of the United Transport Service Employees of America, two well-known and outstanding Negro labor leaders attempted to thwart the efforts of the organization becoming members of the CIO. The UTSEA braved the storm and emerged victoriously with Townsend being placed on the executive board of the CIO; as the first colored man to be so honored, history was made in the American labor movement.

Though he declined to mention names, they are known, and when the opportunity is ripe they will be laid to rest in this column and placed before the court of public opinion for a fair and impartial trial and judgment.

JUL 4 1942

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Firemen's Case To Get Action At Kansas City

Two National Groups Merge To Form Brotherhood

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—(SNS)—Alarmed over the gradual easing out of Negro workers in the railroad industry, twenty-five hundred men, employed by six different railroad companies, will study steps to halt this new job discriminatory trend when they meet in national session at the Paseo Branch YMCA here August 27 and 28.

The Negro workers charge that both railroad companies and big white railroad brotherhoods have collaborated to "freeze out" Negro workers. Chief complaint is the case of Negro firemen, who under written agreement between the railroads and the brotherhoods, are being replaced with white men.

According to the national brotherhood official, the Brotherhood of Trainmen, Brakemen, porters, Switchmen, Firemen and Railway Employes, Inc., and the Brotherhood of Trainmen, Brakemen and Porters, Inc., have merged and are independent standard railroad unions not affiliated with either the AFL or the CIO, since neither have offered substantial protection for colored railroad workers.

Vernon C. Coffey, director-general of the merged organization, says the need of such a national convention at this time is "inexpressibly imperative in order to formulate plans either for cooperation or combination or both."

He added, "A united front is what we need in our common problems. We can do much together in spirit and action, while we can do but little alone or singly."

PORTERS ENDANGERED

Plans will be formulated to protect train porter's positions which are now being taken over by white brakemen [illegible] suothwestern, southeastern and southern railroads, and have become present in the middle west on one or two roads.

Plans will also be made for the selection of representatives in all western, middlewest and southern railroads where Negroes are employed to form committees on Railroad Manpower to work jointly with the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices, which in to convene a national hearing on the railroad matter at Chicago.

This hearing has been designed to investigate discriminatory practices of the railroads and unions against Negro labor.

TO ELECT OFFICERS

During the session, all national officers will be elected as the term of office of those now heading the Brotherhood ends in August.

The list of executive board and representatives as announced by President Steve Bennett of Oklahome City, Okla., who are expected to attend this annual convention are:

Vernor C. Coffey, director-general, Attorney, Kansas City, Kans.; L. H. Hoyl, director, general,chairman, Frisco Lines, Kansas City, Mo.; L. W. Fairchild, director, PopularBl uff, Mo.; S. L. Howard, director, Memphis, Tenn.; John Benion, director of organizations, St. Louis, Mo.; P. Chippin, assistant to general president. St. Louis, Mo.; Hearald McPherson, assistant to general president, Springfield, Mo., R. L. Pettis, vice president, St. Louis, Mo.: Ira Saville, vice president; William Eldridge, vice president, Omaha, Nebr.; Omak Ezell, vice president, Mobile, Ala.; Henry T. Kurn, vice president, Hugo, Okla.; W. B. Mitchell, vice president, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Hurley Bibbs, vice president, Valley Park, Mo.; B. O. Crayne, vice president, Kansas City. Mo.; George Hiram, vice president, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Henry Winston, vice president, Springfield, Mo.; U. V. Weathers, assistant director of organizations, St. Louis, Mo.; Clinton Mossengale, general treasurer, Springfield, Mo.; Leroy A. Tease, general secretary, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Frank William, vice president, New Orleans, La.; J. F. Price, secretary Missouri Pacific System lodges, St. Louis, Mo.; and representatives from all local lodges.

AUG 13 1942

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

UNION SHOP

A CLOSED SHOP MAY KEEP NEGRO WORKERS FROM GAINS

JAN 10 1942

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

THE RECENT conferences in Washington between industrialists and labor leaders has focused the attention of the nation on the question of the union shop. Before making further comment on this problem I would like to point out two things: there was no Negro representation at these conferences and there is no group of Negro labor or civic leader who has interpreted the importance of these deliberations for the millions of black workers throughout the country. I don't like to labor the point, but we are in sore need of an organization of Negro trade union workers who can force representation, demand the discussion of the peculiar problems of the Negro and bring economic and political pressure to see that Negroes are not left out.

Mr. Cayton

But to get back to the closed shop question. Although I am a firm believer in organized labor and realize that the closed shop is the ultimate control which the labor organizations should have over their working conditions, I am not for their getting it at this time. The union shop I would favor, for there is a difference and that difference gives Negro workers some protection.

EVEN CIO MAY DOOM NEGRO

A closed shop means that no worker will be hired without permission of the union. In the case of a union shop the employers have the right to hire whomever they wish, but that employe has to join the union within a given period of time. My position is that at the present time I don't trust even some of the CIO unions enough to grant them the power of a closed shop which would make it possible to shut Negroes completely out of an industry.

I THINK there would be no question, even with the most ardent Negro union supporters, that such unions as the machinist union (who bar Negroes, Atheists, Communists and Nazis from membership through their constitution and by-laws) should not have the privilege of a closed shop. In instance after instance the machinist union has refused to give Negroes working permits or allow them to join the union when union membership was necessary to obtain work in plants engaged on national defense orders.

DOUBTS LAW'S FAIRNESS

Several instances have been brought up by the Fair Employment Practice Committee and considerable pressure is now being brought on the union from a number of sources (without noticeable success so far, however). But if the union had a closed shop none of these cases would ever arise as the union would have control of the hiring and would not, of course, hire any Negroes. The little headway which Negroes have gained in the building trades would soon be lost with the closed shop if pressure could not be brought on employers as well as union organizations to include Negroes.

THEN, TAKE even the relatively fair CIO unions. I, for one, don't give Thomas a clean bill of health in the Automobile Workers' Union. There was, and still is, plenty of funny business going on in the transfer of Negroes and whites from civilian to defense production, and in the recent lay-offs I am not sure that Negroes were at all times treated in terms of their seniority. If Thomas has a closed shop he, and his bureaucracy, could determine who was to be hired and the anti-Negro, Ku Klux Klan element of the United Automobile Workers could bring its not inconsiderable pressure to eliminate the dark brother from the automobile industry.

NEED ORGANIZATION

I am well aware of the fact that any split such as this plays directly into the hands of the employers who wish to exploit it for their own interests. But on the other hand, I don't see why the Negroes should sacrifice for an idealism which does not allow him to work or holds the possibility of shutting industrial doors in his face.

JAN 10 1942

IT GETS back, in the final analysis, to the necessity for Negro workers to organize, to formulate a statement of their problems, to evolve a method of approach which would protect and advance their interests, and to perfect a strategy to be followed in dealing with his fellow-white workers and his employers.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Says Unity Of Labor Will Aid Negro Workers

JAN 25 1942

Randolph Not Perturbed Over Unions' Merger

CHICAGO—(SNS)—When questioned about the meaning of unity between the A. F. of L. and C. I. O. to Negro workers, A Philip Randolph, International President of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, stated at the mid-west headquarters in Chicago, that unity in the labor movement will improve the lot of all workers in America, which includes the Negro.

"If the American Federation of Labor and the Congress for Industrial Organization do not unite the workers are certain to lose some of their vital gains during the post-war period when employment declines," he said. "Specifically, Negro workers will benefit because Negroes can more effectively fight to break down racial discriminations in a united labor movement. In a united labor movement there will be a larger number of unions the Negro can marshall to attack barriers in trade unions on account of race, color, creed or national origin.

"But Negro workers must understand that in a united or divided labor movement, they must fight for their rights. There is no magic and easy road to Negro workers eliminating the color bar in trade unions.

JAN 25 1942

"One of the most important results of unity between the A. F. of L. and the C. I. O. is possible unity among Negro workers themselves, who are now members of these two bodies, for an effective fight for their rights in the annual conventions, the city central bodies and the State Federations of one powerful labor movement," the labor leader concluded.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Union Barriers Smashed In Two Southern Cities

Negro Carpenters Are Admitted After Balloting

MAY 22 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—From two southern cities, Pensacola, Fla.; and Savannah, Ga., encouraging reports have filtered into the office of Dr. Robert Weaver concerning the status of Negro carpenters in this section.

In Pensacola, where there had been a total exclusion of Negroes from the white union and an absolute prohibition of them forming their own union, bars were broken down last week to the extent that Carpenters Local 1191 now has both white and colored members.

MAY 22 1942

Through the efforts of Marion Lambert, business manager of the local, who was contacted by George Streater of Dr. Weaver's office, a vote was taken in the local and by the overwhelming count of 24202, Negroes were admitted to the union. The first two went to work two weeks ago.

In Savannah, a similar case was broken by Cy Record of Dr. Weaver's office when complaints were received that Negroes could not get work as carpenters. Mayor Thomas Gamble wrote Sidney Hillman, who in turn contacted Dr. Weaver and a man was sent in to discuss the situation.

Shipbuilders, contractors and representatives of all of the building trade were present at a meeting which resulted in some 70 Negro carpenters obtaining work with the promise of 40 or more to be sent out very soon.

Rail Firemen

BROTHERHOOD AGREEMENT FORCING NEGROES OUT OF TRADITIONAL R.R. JOBS

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

1942

Pittsburgh Courier

IF THE ONLY remaining railroad which employs Negro firemen lets them go and a traditionally "Negro job" goes white, it won't be the fault of Willard Townsend and the United Transportation Service Employees of America. The reason why there is intense competition between the Negro and white workers for the firemen's jobs is not hard to find. For a Negro the jobs pays well—exceedingly well in comparison with most jobs that black workers hold.

MAY 2 1942

Mr. Cayton

At first these jobs, which were dirty, hard and hot, were not sought out by whites. In those days it was a Negro's job; and whites wouldn't have it. Engineers, who have always been white, picked their own Negro firemen and kept them for years.

Pittsburgh PA.

10 NEGROES KILLED IN LABOR WAR

During the World War whites began to do this work and with powerful union pressure connected with the attacks on Negro firemen in 1916 and 1917, they were able to get that division of the leading railroad in the district on which there had been the most violence to agree to a ratio of 50-50 between Negroes and white firemen. As the Negroes could not be advanced to engineers, they accumulated more and more seniority as firemen. With any slacking up of the service Negroes then could, on the basis of this seniority, displace white firemen. In retaliation the white firemen resorted to violence and shot the Negro firemen and brakemen on their runs. Altogether ten men were killed and twenty-one in all were killed, wounded or shot at.

MAY 2 - 1942

GRADUALLY, since 1900, the Negro firemen have been losing out until at the present they have a majority (and only when they have a majority on a particular road can they form an effective bargaining unit) on the Florida East Coast Railroad.

MAY 2 1942

WHITE WOMAN REPRESENT MEN

The Florida East Coast Railroad may well be the end of this sordid tale of greed and violence on the part of organized white workers, the fear and timidity of the Negroes, and the failure of the government to protect the lives of passengers on trains in interstate commerce. Until recently the firemen on the Florida East Coast Railroad have been represented by a white woman, a Mrs. Jessie Helms, the wife of the man who formerly represented them. The older Negro firemen swore by her and felt that she was perfectly honest and capable of protecting their interests. However, Townsend's organization appeared on the scene and tried to gather them up into his omnibus union. Most of the old heads refused to join while the younger and more adventurous of the firemen were anxious to break away from Mrs. Helms and, what Townsend described as, her connection with the management.

MAY 2 - 1942

AS soon as Townsend's organization began to make any headway the big white Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen stepped into the picture and brought a lot of pressure on the company. As the Florida East Coast is a seasonal road and has to secure engineers from the union to meet these seasonal needs, the company was pretty much influenced by the union and agreed to give all of their engineers a seniority rating on the firemen's list and further to have a ratio of 55 percent white firemen to 45 percent Negro.

MAY BRING COURT ACTION

This move just about froze up Townsend's chances to organize the firemen as well as the possibility of the Negroes retaining their jobs. Townsend has filed what membership cards he has obtained from the younger men with the Mediation Board. But under the present agreement, if it is upheld, only an act of God can save these jobs for Negroes. Of course, it was against union principle for the Locomotive Engineers to negotiate and bring pressure on the company for another craft, i.e., the firemen. But this cuts little ice when it concerns a Negro in the Brotherhoods where no Negro can become a member. The one faint ray of hope is that the agreement is illegal and some court action can be brought about to abrogate it. The situation doesn't look too encouraging.

MAY 2 - 1942

THE problem of the Negro railroad workers is serious. Usually they are scattered so that they are in too small a number to control any bargaining union. Where this is so they are usually left out of the union, or taken in and are carefully controlled.

It's pretty hard to see what can be done, but a step forward will be Townsend's joining up with the CIO. This is progressing rather satisfactorily and as soon as details can be worked out as to the jurisdiction of his union and that of the Utility Workers' Organizing Committee we will have a Negro president of an international union in the CIO.

Then all of the Negro railroad workers scattered here and there without representation can join this union. This will not give them bargaining units in most places, probably in few, but it will give them a powerful spokesman and some organizational backing.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, PA.

Labor Leaders

JUL 11 1942

WILLIARD TOWNSEND HOLDS HIGHEST POSITION— RANDOLPH BUILDS POLITICAL GROUP

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

THERE are about four Negroes of national stature who stand out as leaders of Negro labor. This indicates that the labor movement among Negroes is gradually coming of age, just as is the general labor movement in this country. This crop of Negro leaders is the product of the increased participation of Negroes in the labor movement.

Mr. Cayton

The oldest and perhaps best known Negro leader is A. Philip Randolp. Randolph has tremendous prestige in the labor movement because of his personal integrity, honesty and ability. Although the A. F. of L. has constantly foiled all of his attempts to force through some modification of the racial barriers which exist in the affiliate international unions, he is, nevertheless, the only leavening force which the Negro has in the higher councils of the A. F. of L.

LEADER OF THE MA[illegible]

JUL 11 1942

Lately Randolph has been spending much, or perhaps most, of his time with political organizations and has neglected to become the forceful leader of the unorganized Negro. There are possibly two reasons for this. In the first place the A. F. of L. gives him slight co-operation and the jurisdictional divisions make it hard for him to operate very effectively. Then again, Randolph might consider that at this period political action . . that is, the organization of the Negro masses . . is more necessary. I wouldn't be the one to argue with him on this point. It seems to me that if the President's Executive Order and the Fair Employment Practices Committee are the result of any individual's action, that individual is Randolph.

OF all the leaders Randolph seems to be the only one working and getting results on a large scale. However, Randolph as a labor leader is clearly being overshadowed by Randolph as the organizer and leader of Negro masses.

JOHNSON OUT ON LEWIS' LIMB

Ferdinand Smith, secretary of the National Maritime Union, is the left wing's bid for leadership among Negro workers. Representing the left and progressive unions in the CIO, Smith has been built up as a national figure in labor. In spite of his ability and the strength which his position gives him, he has not, however, been able to extend his influence much beyond the eastern coast. Whether Smith will be able to increase his stature and become a spokesman for all Negro labor in the CIO depends largely upon the wider political changes.

HENRY Johnson, the one-time white haired boy of the CIO, is definitely out on the Lewis limb. Unless Lewis makes peace with the CIO and the administration, which is unlikely, we have lost in Johnson one of the most able and forceful of all labor men. But Johnson is tied to the big fellow's coat tail and will speak the thoughts and voice the demands of Lewis, rather than Negro labor. It's too bad . . but we will have to write him off, or at least for the present.

TOWNSEND HOLDS HIGHEST POSITION

The most hopeful one of the group is Williard S. Townsend, who has just been appointed a member of the executive committee of the CIO. By virtue of his position as a president of an affiliated international, Townsend now occupies the highest position, to my knowledge, that a Negro has obtained in the labor movement in America. Not only that, but he is in this position because a strong union, which he built himself, is behind him. He has the advantage over Ferdinand Smith in that he has real rank and file support while Smith's election was, it seemed to me, almost an appointment because of the liberal nature of the union and their anxiousness to have Negro representation. Townsend also has the advantage over Randolph because the CIO is more liberal and intends to do something about the organized and unorganized Negro worker.

IT is my prediction that within the next few months you will be hearing a lot more about Williard Townsend, especially if Mr. Murray intends to make an ally of the Negro people of America. I wish that there was some way for him and Randolph to get together on a joint political and labor problem.

35i-1942

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Colored Workers Would Cause Walkouts, Says Glenn Martin

JAN 10 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Exclusion of colored workers from training and employment in the Glenn L. Martin aircraft plant is due to race segregation in force in Maryland, Glenn L. Martin, president of the Glenn L. Martin Company, told the special House committee investigating national defense migration while it was holding hearings in Baltimore.

Mr. Martin also said the skilled men in the plant would walk out if colored workers were placed in the plant alongside white workers.

Both of these excuses were blasted by Frank J. Bender, regional director, Maryland Congress of Industrial Organizations, and Edward S. Lewis, executive secretary of the Baltimore Urban League.

JAN 10 1942

NEED OPPORTUNITY

Failure to employ colored workers in skilled jobs on defense jobs **was due to employer objections.** Mr. Bender stated. Where labor is given an opportunity, he said, colored and white men will work side by side without objection.

In the Glenn L. Martin plant, he pointed out, the overwhelming majority of workers are about 21, 22 and 23 years of age and most of them "are on the first job they ever had, and they would not be so indoctrinated or prejudiced against the Negro race" as to quit work because colored workers were put to work beside them.

JAN 10 1942

ARGUMENT NOT SOUND

Mr. Lewis told the committee he did not feel that the argument that white and colored workers would not work together was sound. He pointed out that there was no difficulty with CIO unions as far as race discrimination was concerned, but that there had been acute difficulties with American Federation of Labor craft unions.

"Now, we haven't a thing in the world against the Negro." Mr. Martin testified. "If he is a good citizen, he is all right; but we would have to have segregation and the organizations who have been promoting the Negro question do not wish to accept segregation."

JAN 10 1942

"You say you would have to have segregation?" asked Representative Frank C. Osmers, Jr., Republican, of New Jersey.

"We believe so," replied Mr. Martin.

"Why?" asked Mr. Osmers.

"Because Baltimore has segregation," replied Mr. Martin. "The Negro does not go to the white man's theater, nor does he go to the white man's restaurant or hotel. There are no colored people in the legislature in Maryland. The schools have segregation.

NO TIME TO LEAD REFORM

"We are willing to help with any social reform or change, but we do not feel that we have time to lead in such a reform at this time.

"When Maryland undertakes to place the Negro on the same basis with the white man, without segregation, I believe that our organization would be ready to absorb such a relation. But at present we have segregation, and when we employ the colored man, I believe that we will have to segregate him, as is the custom in every other instance in the State."

ANTICIPATES STOPPAGE

"Well, I don't know whether I have correctly gauged your attitude," remarked Mr. Osmers, "but I think your attitude is one of absolute neutrality so far as the question is concerned. But you anticipate, do you, that there would be a work stoppage if you attempted to put Negroes throughout your plant?"

"If we undertook to put Negroes in there without segregation, there would be an immediate stoppage," replied Mr. Martin. "We know that. The organizers who have proposed our employing Negroes without segregation have had some publicity in the Maryland papers.

JAN 10 1942

"We have said nothing about it —made no reply, but a number of our employees who became concerned for fear we might consider such a thing have let it be known that they, the skilled men in the plant, will walk out when the Negroes walk in; and so we are, in the interest of national defense, not going to do anything to disturb a social problem until someone else has straightened it out.

REPRESENTATION POOR

Mr. Lewis told the committee that there were only two fields where there was what he would term reasonable representation. Out of a total of some 20,000 workers in the steel industry, he said, there were 9,000 colored workers. He also indicated there was fair representation in the textile industries.

Other figures he gave the committee showing the ratio of colored workers were in the chemical field, 10 out of 200 workers; 258 out of 6,800 shipyard workers; one-third of the workers in the metal industries, and increased representation in the construction group.

JAN 10 1942

"As a matter of fact," he said, "we have high school graduates who compare quite favorably, from any point of view, with the high school graduates who are now taken in the Glenn L. Martin plant. We have also had graduates from our colored vocational schools who have some mechanical aptitude, and if they were given an opportunity to work, could be taken into this plant."

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Unions Urged To Speed Use Of Negro Workers

SEP 27 1942

Step Is Termed Necessary To Protect Future

SEP 27 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(SNS)—Organized labor was urged this week to protect its own stake in the future by actively cooperating in the integration of Negroes, women and other minority groups into war production plants.

This step was urged by Dr. Robert C. Weaver, Director of the Negro Manpower Service, War Manpower Commission in an address before the national convention of the United Rubber Workers of America in Akron, Ohio, on September 22, 1942.

SEP 27 1942

MUST WIN WAR

"Labor unions, no less than other groups, have a stake in this matter," Dr. Weaver declared. "First, both organized labor and minorities are engaged in a struggle for survival. Only by winning this war can either hope to maintain its place on the American scene. And both are concerned with more than maintaining what they have won by sacrifice and by hard work; both look to the future for a larger share of the benefits of democracy.

"Second, both minorities and labor are concerned with the observance of federal policy which states that all available sources of local labor should be fully utilized before other workers are brought into industrial centers from outside. Such unnecessary in-migration as will result if this policy is not carried out will occasion adidtional defense housing, greater strains upon our already inadequate transportation systems and additional hospital and school facilities."

RELAX RACIAL BANS

Discussing the relaxation of racial bans in war production, Dr. Weaver declared:

"The rubber products industry, as well as industries engaged in war production, will have to continue relax its hiring specifications. In rubber, particular attention must be given to the employment of Negro men and women. Less than 2 per cent of the total employees of the rubber industry are colored. Two-thirds of the companies in the industry hire white workers only; and some forty-odd establishments each employ no more than three non-white workers. Of the remaining establishments, only five firms employ large numbers on production....

"In the fight to preserve democracy, those who are dedicated to its principles must strive ever to strengthen and expand its basic expression. In times of crisis, isnot be ignored. Today we are consues become sharper and they cantrary to the principles for which we fight, delaying the most effective mobilization of our manpower because of certain prejudices-prejudices on account of race, sex, color, national origin and religion.

"Democracy in normal times is endangered by such attitudes and practices. When democracy is being attacked we cannot afford the luxury of idulging in such prejudices. Organizer labor must take the lead in breaking them down.

"All I have said, all that I feel on this subject can be expressed in the words on a poster issued by WPB:

" 'We are fighting the axis-not each other,."

CIO UNIONS

TWO POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENTS MAY PLACE NEGRO MEMBERS ON POLICY-MAKING BODIES

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

IN SPITE of the fact that the CIO has a much more liberal racial policy there has been no Negro CIO leader who has reached the stature in that organization of A. Philip Randolph of the AFL. At one time Henry Johnson was assistant national director of the Packinghouse Workers' union and at the present time Ferdinand C. Smith is vice-president of the National Maritime Union, but neither attained the prestige that Randolph has in the AFL. As a matter of fact the Negro has not been very well represented in the top leadership of the CIO. There have been lots of Negro organizers hired here and there, and Negroes have been elected in local unions to positions of presidents, vice presidents and the like, but the Negro has not had enough representation on the policy making committees and bodies of the Congress.

Mr. Cayton

Two things are happening which may, to an extent, change this picture and give some Negro leadership and representation to the 200,000 to 250,000 Negro CIO workers.

APR 1 1 1942

135

SEES HOPE IN UMW SPLIT

The first, is the current shake-up in the United Mine Workers. The fight between Lewis and Murray has developed to a point where Murray, in retaliation for the raids on CIO membership by District 50 and Denny Lewis' Construction Workers Organizing Committee, has invaded Lewis' stronghold—the United Mine Workers. Murray is going to District 17 of the United Mine Workers, which includes the important Pennsylvania and West Virginia coal mine areas, in an effort to bolster the prestige of Van A. Bittner. Bittner is the president of District 17 who has recently been more or less displaced by a committee because of his refusal to go along with Lewis.

APR 1 1 1942

THE importance of this, is that District 17 has a great many Negroes who have never been given proper recognition. In West Virginia alone there are 25,000 Negro coal miners and in the whole district the figure would run something like thirty to forty thousand. This is the one district in the United Mine Workers where Negroes are present in such large numbers that it would be possible for them to hold a job such as Van A. Bittner holds in the International and exercise great influence on the policy making of the United Mine Workers as well as the CIO itself.

APR 1 1 1942

MUST PLAY SHREWD GAME

Previously Lewis, nor Murray, nor Bittner or any of the rest have been willing to promote a Negro to such a position. Now with competition between Lewis and Murray both sides are going to have to make concessions to hold, or obtain, the Negroes' allegiance and it is time for the "brother in black" to ease himself into some of these powerful and important jobs.

APR 1 1 1942

I HOPE the Negro mine workers will play a cold, hard game and force the recognition they richly deserve in District 17. Lewis has the district in his vest pocket as the district has never had autonomy and he has thus been able to squeeze Bittner out. If the Bittner-Murray faction want to succeed in their fight to displace Lewis, one of their first moves should be to see that Negroes have places on the international board of the United Mine Workers from District 17.

APR 1 1 1942

RUMOR UTSEA MAY JOIN CIO

The second bit of news which indicates that Negroes may sit at the policy making table of the CIO comes from a quite different source. The United Transport Service Employes of America, under the leadership of Willard Townsend, has been the most powerful independent Negro international. For some time this organization has felt the necessity of allying itself with one of the major labor parties so that it could have more leverage in dealing with the various railroad adjustment boards. Progressive as it is, it was pretty difficult for them to envisage allying themselves with the Federation and they hesitated to join the CIO.

APR 1 1 1942

RECENTLY it has been rumored that Townsend wrote a letter to Phil Murray stating that two years ago his executive board instructed him to investigate the possibilities of affiliating with one of the major labor organzations. For various reasons, Townsend is said to have stated, this had not been done but that the question had again arisen. The letter was to ascertain from the CIO how they felt about such affiliation so that the matter could be presented to the national convention of the United Transport Service Employes of America this May.

TWO IMPORTANT POSSIBILITIES

APR 1 1 1942

These two matters seem of extreme importance. The largest union in the world with the largest Negro membership of any mixed union in the world — the United Mine Workers—is now going to be forced to give additional representation to Negroes in its top leadership. Secondly the strongest independent Negro organization with a progressive and energetic president is contemplating an affiliation with the Congress. If these two things eventuate, the hundreds of thousands of Negro CIO workers will have representatives and spokesmen in the policy forming bodies of the Congress, and will no longer have to depend on the good will of the white folks no matter how sincere they might be.

35i-1942
Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Railroad Workers Should Organize

By GEORGE F. McCRAY

FOR Many years now the Negro railroad worker has been taking a beating. Today no group of workers in the United States needs the protection of a strong and democratic labor movement as badly as these workers.

There are well over 100,000 Negro men and wo[illegible] employed in the [illegible]try. They are found in various classifications of work such as porters and maids, firemen, switchmen, and maintenance of way workers; car cleaners, red caps, oilers, hostlers, cooks, waiters, trainmen, carmen, and helpers for blacksmiths, machinists, and boilermakers. There is also a large group of terminal warehousemen and freight station laborers.

Certain occupations like pullman porters, red caps, maids and maintenance of way employes, and cooks and waiters on many roads are almost completely manned by Negroes. Almost exclusively, however, Negroes are to be found in the custodial, service, or laboring classifications in the industry.

SUBJECT TO JIM-CROW SYSTEM

Throughout the industry Negroes are subjected to a jim-crow system that embod[illegible] the crudities [illegible] refinement developed for his suppression. This is true in spite of the fact that each of the fact that each of the occupations in the railroad industry in which Negroes work is covered by the jurisdiction of a recognized labor organization. Most of these organizations are affiliated with the AFL or are independent. Two are affiliated with the CIO.

The CIO unions led by Bill Townsend's United Transport Service Employes of America and the Utility Workers organizing committee, are offering full equality and participation to the Negro workers. Unfortunately, Bill Townsend's organization is the only really estabished union the CIO has in the railroad industry.

In contrast the attitude of the CIO, the [illegible]ful rai[illegible] brotherhoods and the unions affiliated with the AFL, excepting Randolph's Pullman Porters, regard the Negro pretty much as a nuisance. This latter group of unions often flatly refuse to admit Negroes. Occasionally they admit Negroes and push them off into jim crow locals without voice or vote in their union's affairs.

In the other instances Negroes are admitted into the union, required to assume all the financial obligations of membership, but get very little if any aid from the international in presenting grievances or fighting for better wages, hours, and working conditions.

In times like these, it is well to remember that these Negro railroad workers enjoy neither freedom from fear, nor freedom from want. Negro blacksmith, boiler makers and machinist helpers along with other workers in the industry are stubbornly refused promotions. And not only are most railroad jobs closed to Negroes, but Negro firemen, switchmen a[illegible]akemen [illegible] being systemati[illegible] and often brutally displaced.

DEFENSIVE STEPS TAKEN

In the face of this situation Negro workers have done what they could to protect their interests. Some of them accepted the segregated, jim-crow, voiceless locals; some have paid and are continuing to pay dues to international unions and "brotherhoods" that really do little for them. Still other Negro workers established strong bargaining unions composed primarily of Negroes and holding contracts with all the major railroads. Others have sought protection in small, isolated, regional unions composed solely of Negroes and held together usually by one or two men.

LEADERS OVER-WORKED

Moreover, the representatives of these smaller groups have been inadequately prepared to formulate or set up and argue many of the cases entrusted to them by their [illegible]ers. The[illegible]ave had to continue working for the roads themselves, while fighting to hold their small organizations together. Very little indeed has been the time they have had for study, planning, and executing a constructive campaign against prejudice and discrimination in the railroad industry.

In the face of this total situation, Negro labor is beginning to look around and ask questions. Many of them state frankly they are looking for a man to follow.

It is absolutely necessary that these Negro workers in the railroad industry who have found it necessary to set themselves up in many small organizations all over the country take the following steps:

1. Negroes and white workers interested in a democratic labor movement in the industry consolidate or merge their resources, leadersh[illegible]inancial and numerical, into a strong o[illegible]zation to do all the things which they have been trying to do in smaller organizations. This is the only way these workers can carry on an effective fight for security and democracy.

2. Further, these groups, now that the nation is more conscious of the problems of minorities, should support an educational campaign for national unity on the basis of economic equality for Negroes and other minority groups.

The Northwest
Enterprise
Seattle, Washington

ROY WILKINS FLAYS LABOR BIAS

NOV. 18, 1942

A large audience of white and colored persons heard Roy Wilkins assistant secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, last Sunday at First Presbyterian church. Editor of the Crisis, official magazine of the NAACP, orator and leader, Mr. Wilkins gave Portland one of the most informative as well as timely addresses ever heard by its citizenry. Mr. Wilkins' subject "The Negro and Democracy," cleared much doubt in the mindes of some as to the Negroe's attitude in the war situation, his loyalty and patriotism in the fact of discrimination. This war, he said, must be settled with just not only for all nations, but for all people — although discriminated against in their own nation, even in uniform, Negroes will fight to the end for America because they are determined that some day this land will be what the founding fathers meant it to be — a land not only of freedom, but of equality for all, regardless of color or creed. NOV. 18, 1942

Refering to the number of Negroes recruited from New York by the Kaiser company shipyards and the controversy which arose, the speaker said "those Negroes came out here to help win the war," but they found that the bolier-makers' union had a cluase in its constitution which said that this is a union for white men. So the Negroes were made common laborers, without chance to show their skills.

"With the union, the lilywhite constitution comes first; the winning of the war second. You can't win a war that way, continued Mr. Wilkins, as he branded Tommy Ray as the undisputed boss of the boilermakers' union here. "Ray has hurt the morale of 13,000,000 Negroes in this country by following the line of Berlin propaganda which would split our nation. Dividing our population in any way is damaging to the war effort."

The speaker related that Negroes in the armed services, when on leave, frequently find that they cannot get a sandwich or a cup of coffee simply because they are Negroes. This is particularly true her in the Pacific Northwest. And they find that they are unwelcome at many service men's centers, he said. "The Negro in uniform is regarded as just another and not as a soldier." "Yet, regardless of whether a mother is white or black, she has the same feeling for her son who may be going away to fight in far-off places and perhaps to die."

In closing, Mr. Wilkins said, President Roosevelt's proclamation in 1941, demanding that there be no racial discrimination in employment was a sad commentary on how we have been carrying out our democratic obligations. The Negro has as much chance of getting a job and pay commensorate with his skill as "a Jew has in getting into the private office of Hitler."

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

LABOR & INDUSTRY

(By George F. McCray for ANP)

OCT 9 - 1942

Says Negro Railroad Workers Are Menaced By The Closed Shop Demands of Undemocratic Unions.

The closed shop contracts now being sought by 15 powerful non-operating unions in the railroad industry is a loaded rifle pointing at the bared breast of the Negro railroad worker.

This statement is no exaggeration for in the railroad industry most unions and railroad managements have generally stripped the Negro worker of all opportunity for advancement and employment in any but the most menial occupations.

Closed Shop Increases Power of Jim Crow

This opposition to the employment and advancement of Negroes has come mainly from the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, the Order of Railway Conductors and organizations of railroad stewards. Of the 15 unions now demanding the closed shop 14 either exclude Negroes or do not admit them to membership on a democratic basis. Certainly as long as this situation prevails, it is to be expected that these unions will use the tremendous power of the closed shop to block more effectively the employment of Negro workers at a time when the roads are badly in need of them.

OCT 9 - 1942.

Even now as this closed shop drive gathers momentum, Milton Webster, heading a sub-committee of the FEPC, is investigating general practices of discrimination against Negro and Spanish-American workers in the industry.

Joint Council Accepted

OCT 9 - 1942

The danger to the Negro worker of the closed shop move under general conditions of segregation and discrimination is not lessened by the fact that the Joint Council of Dining Car Employes, led by Solon C. Bell, Richard Smith and George E. Brown, was allowed to participate in the conference at which the closed shop demand was agreed upon.

As Negroes representing predominantly Negro railroad cooks and waiters, Bell and Smith had long been denied the tremendous advantages of being able to negotiate their contracts with the carriers in association with 14 other non-operating unions which compose the railway executives association. This privelege the joint council won after a long and bitter behind-the-scenes fight.

The joint council certainly deserve scommendation for this fight. Its victory, though overshadowed by the move for the closed shop, is nonetheless a victory for Negro labor and democracy. Many workers are hoping that the victory marks the beginning for a general move to smash all barriers to the full utilization of Negro defense workers in the railroad industry.

Negro Workers Not Main Objective

OCT 9 - 1942

Unfortunately these hopes seem to be quite premature. Not that the purpose of the closed shop move is to give the "brotherhoods" a weapon with which to blow out the economic brains of the Negro railroad worker. No, such is not the main purpose of the move.

The great non-operating brotherhoods are fighting for three things principally They want to hand a sweeping defeat to two CIO unions. They are aiming at Bill Townsend's Transport Service employes and the Utility Workers Organizing committee. Also several small independent Negro unions who do not want to accept jim crow unionism are involved. Lately the CIO organizations, particularly Townsend's UTSEA, have been making marked progress organizing railroad cooks, waiters and laundry workers.

OCT 9 - 1942

The second thing the 15 operating Brotherhoods want to do is protect themselves against having to expend enormous funds to organize tens of thousands of new workers entering the industry. These new workers are being employed by the roads to cover rapid expansion under war conditions and to replace men entering the armed forces. Finally the closed shop always simplifies the problem of dues collection.

That last paragraph is not to be construed as an anti-union statement. In time of war when the usual union-management struggles endanger the national security, union security is a legitimate objective and certainly in the publc interest. Two powerful unions, largely Negro, are also seeking the closed shop or the union shop.

No Closed Shop To Jim Crow Unions

OCT 9 - 1942

These practically all Negro unions are the AFL's Joint Council of Dining Car Employes and the CIO's United Transport Service Employes of America. The joint council has joined with the other unions seeking the closed shop.

The Transport Workers union, in an independent move, is asking for union security through compulsory union membership maintenance after a worker once joins a union voluntarily. The transoprt workers union also state it is strongly opposed to granting closed shop contracts t unions that discriminate against workers because of race, creed or nationality.

The position of Townsend's transport workers seems to warrant the support of all persons who believe in a democratic labor movement. This position should be supported by all citizens who want to smash every barrier to the full utilization of our total labor supply.

OCT 9 - 1942

The Presidents Committee on Fair Employment Practices should definitely concern itself with these negotiations for the closed shop. Experience has shown that the closed shop under present conditions in the railroad industry means more extensive violation of Executive Order 8802, and sabotage of the war effort.

351-1942
Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Garbage Strikers Warned City Will Beat Walkout

Garbage collections in Atlanta were functioning 25 per cent of normal yesterday, H. J. Cates, chief of the sanitary department ,announced, despite a strike Tuesday of more than 200 Negro garbage collectors to force salary increases.

More than 100 tons of garbage were moved during the day by volunteer convicts and other workers, as Cates delivered an ultimatum to striking workmen that the city would "beat the strike and they should return to their jobs immediately." The average daily collection at this season of the year is about 450 tons.

At the same time, Albert Gossett, president of the Atlanta Federation of Trades, repudiated the strike, saying "we condemn it and hope it will end shortly."

Hartsfield Backs Cates.

The Negroes until a few days ago were members of the Atlanta local 450 International Brotherhood Chauffeurs, Teamsters and Helpers, an AFL affiliate, but when the group persisted in striking for higher wages, were ousted, according to E. L. Abercrombie, business agent for the local.

Mayor Hartsfield said he will back Cates to the limit and requested the city paymaster to pay off 213 striking workmen immediately, advancing the regular payday for the workers for the week's work completed last Monday from Friday, which is the regular payday.

Commenting on the strike, Hartsfield said that besides the immediate situation there also is involved a principle of great importance in the future conduct of "our city in wartime and I intend to support the chief completely."

Patience Is Urged.

Last July the men now on strike struck at the very time garbage collections were at their peak, and forced an increase of 50 cents a day in their wages, Cates said. He added "this looks like it will be an annual event if we do not do something about it, and they are successful in forcing an increase of from $3 a day to $4 a day, as demanded, it will cost taxpayers of Atlanta another $80,000 a year to meet the addition to the pay roll."

"We expect to see this thing through in behalf of our citizens," Cates continued. We can not afford to allow this strike to succeed. I hope the people will be patient with us in our efforts and help us protect their own pocketbooks.

"These strikers drew $3 a day for eight hours' work. They are entitled to retire on pension at half pay after 25 years' service. They are protected by civil service and have permanent jobs as long as they perform their work. They have benefits of group insurance. All these advantages are not open to many in private employments. These men have relatively good jobs.

They have taken advantage of war conditions and the peak garbage collection time. Washing and sweeping machines operated Tuesday night despite the strike. Some of the machines in operation were followed by strikers, but there was no violence."

Cates asked the co-operation of the public. He advised all persons who can to burn their dry garbage, papers, etc., and to put wet garbage, table scraps and refuse, into paper bags or other fly and ant-proof containers. He said if conditions become unbearable at any place, he will attempt to provide pickup trucks to relieve that condition if those affected will load the trucks. Trucks will be sent on call to the sanitary office at the city hall.

Those who can might pool their garbage and send it to the incinerator, which has not been affected by the strike and which is still running, it was suggested.

Additional trucks will be put in operation as rapidly as possible until they are functioning 100 per cent again, Cates said, but in the meantime he asked co-operation and patience.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Garbage Piles High As 300 Workers Strike

Men Demand Wage Increase Of $1 a Day

There was no collection of garbage in any part of the city Tuesday as the result of a strike by more than 300 Negro garbage truck workers.

The workers demanded an increase of wages from $3 to $4 a day.

There was no violence of any kind Tuesday, according to H. J. Cates, superintendent of the City Sanitary Department. Police Captain E. W. Ginn, with a detail of officers, was on the scene, but said the walkout was orderly.

The city's fleet of trucks remained in the city garage on Hunter Street. The truck drivers were not involved in the walkout, however.

Mr. Cates said "The situation is up to Mayor Hartsfield and Chairman John Marler, of the Council Sanitation Committee." It was understood they held a confeernce sometime Tuesday.

The superintendent added that "There is little chance for us to get more men for this work now because of war conditions. It is mighty hard work and it is almost impossible for men to stand up under it unless they are used to it.

STRUCK LAST YEAR

Robert Childs, one of the workers, acted as spokesman for the strikers. He informed Chief Cates that the men would not go to work unless the increase they sought was granted.

In July last year, the garbage collectors staged a 10-day strike when the city refused to increase their pay from $2.50 to $3 a day. When the increase was finally granted, the men returned to work.

The garbage workers were not included in the 10 per cent bonus for other city employes granted by the city in January. They were excluded on the ground that the had been granted an increase in wages amounting to 10 per cent or more during the year.

At that time the matter was submitted to a mediation board headed by Preston S. Arkwright and this board held that the workers were not entitled to the 10 per cent bonus inasmuch as they had just been given substantial pay increases as a result of their strike.

Mr. Cates admitted Tuesday that the garbage workers "really put out" during their eight-hour work daily.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

300 Garbage Truck Helpers Stage Walkout

Collection of 450 tons of garbage a day from 25,000 homes, office buildings and business and commercial houses was paralyzed yesterday when more than 300 workers on garbage trucks struck for the second time in 12 months for higher pay. They demanded their pay be increased from $3 to $4 a day.

City administration leaders were attempting to devise plans through which incineration of refuse could be continued and the health of Atlanta's 302,000 citizens could be safeguarded, but after a special meeting during the afternoon, the only assurance given was that truck drivers will remain on the job and that H. J. Cates, chief of the sanitary department, will attempt to hire others to take the places of the striking employes.

Not only did the helpers on the garbage trucks—the men who get garbage cans from homes and places of business and empty them onto the trucks—strike but they were joined by workers on dog wagons. It is the latter group which takes off the streets rabid dogs, and W. H. Edwards, city sanitary engineer, expressed fear that this phase of citizen protection might get out of hand unless some method is devised to continue that service.

E. L. Abercrombie, business representative of local Union No. 450, International Brotherhood of Chauffeurs, Teamsters and Helpers, AFL affiliated, in a letter to H. J. Cates, chief of the sanitary department, seven days ago, said, "this organization wants to be on record that any action they might take will not be taken in the name of this organization or as a member thereof.

The collectors staged their walkout yesterday in similar fashion to the one they called last July. The drivers stayed on the job, but the Negro workers struck.

After the conference, the committee assured drivers they would be paid for full service temporarily. They were asked to stay at the garage and to collect garbage as trucks can be moved with sufficient help to perform their tasks.

Cates said the department will do the best it can to move as much of the refuse as possible. He pointed out, however, that the garbage collection is at its height now with melon rinds, fruit peelings and vegetables adding to the normal garbage load. He said ordinarily about 350 tons of garbage are collected a day, but that for the next few weeks it will run about 450 tons a day.

He said only about five per cent of the 48 collection trucks were in operation yesterday, and held little hope for any immediate relief.

"We recognize our responsibility for the continued good health of Atlantans," Cates said, "and we propose to do everything in our power to keep the city clean. On the other hand, it appears that some others do not recognize their responsibility.

"This is somewhat like the city would be under air raid when all services probably might have to be suspended. The only thing I can suggest is to ask loyal Atlantans to help us help them as far as possible. Do not have any more garbage than is absolutely necessary. The public can help us materially in this respect, and if conditions get bad maybe neighbors can band together to find some means of disposing of necessary garbage. We will be able to handle downtown collections, but in residential sections citizens should burn what garbage they can, keep nonflamable garbage in tightly closed cans, and do not put any hedge, lawn or tree clippings on the streets. The clippings might cause accidents for which property owners themselves are responsible."

For days the collectors have threatened to strike if their pay was not increased. Captain E. W. Ginn, of the city police department, dispersed a group of "wrecking crews," allegedly ready to ride herd on any trucks which left the garage during the morning. It was said, however, that no disorders developed.

Cates recalled that last year when the strike was on "wrecking crews" ran newly hired workers off garbage trucks, and that because of the success of the operations, the city finally was forced to meet demands for salary increases for the same men. The salaries were increased from $2.50 to $3 a day at that time.

Cates said the strike "seems to be perennial," and added, "I hope we can get this settled this time once for all."

The sanitary chief said the strike was "strategically called, right at the time our work is heaviest and when a shortage of labor may prevent us from obtaining workers to take the places of the striking men."

After the salary raise voted last year by council, the garbage collection men who got salary raises were denied the 10 per cent bonus granted other municipal employes on the grounds they already had increases in excess of 10 per cent.

The matter was submitted to a mediation board, headed by Preston S. Arkwright, president of the Georgia Power Company, and the board held that the collectors who had struck already had increases equivalent to or exceeding the 10 per cent allowed other city employes.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Garbage Strikers

JUL 23 1942

Citizens of Atlanta can have no sympathy for the garbage helpers who have gone on their annual midsummer strike.

Following the annual pattern, they have waited until the hottest months of the summer when the garbage load is at its peak and the health problem most difficult, to walk off the job.

Regardless of the merits of the appeal for a wage increase, any possible public sympathy was nullified by the manner and methods of the strike. These men do not deserve to be kept on the job. Their record of the past is against them. If there are others who will take the jobs on some contract basis which will remove these annual summer walkouts, they should be given them

Any merit their claims may have had is overshadowed by their methods and the threats of violence. A strike against the city, or against any government, properly will never have public sympathy.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Prisoners Doing Work Of Strikers

JUL 25 1942

Movement of refuse in the city was estimated to be 75 per cent of normal Friday by H. J. Cates, city sanitary chief.

Although the sanitary office claimed that approximately 173 of the 230 striking garbage collectors had returned to work, it was estimated by some of the workers themselves that only between 75 and 100 had returned and that the city was using surplus convict labor in the collection and to break the strike.

One alleged strike leader disclaimed any responsibility for the strike in an interview Friday and indicated he was washing his hands" of his former fellow workers since all refused to stick together.

Pressure was being exerted on the local Teamsters, Chauffeurs and Helpers' union in an effort to have prison labor removed from the trucks. One union official was reportedly warned that it is against union contract for the union truck drivers to haul prison or convict workers in breaking a strike. This official is said to have stated that the prison labor would be taken off the trucks after Friday. The strikers, who until recently were members of the union, reportedly put little faith in this alleged promise by the union official.

It was reported from the ranks of the garbage workers that the white truck drivers were to co-operate in this year's strike as was done last year, but were given a ten per cent increase in wages following a conference Tuesday. This increase was said to have come through union negotiation. The white truck drivers were said already to have been receiving $5.50 per day in contrast to the $3 per day paid the garbage collectors who "really put out," in the very words of Chief Cates himself

Mayor Hartsfield backed Chief Cates to the limit in refusing to increase the garbage workers' wages from $3 to $4 a day. The Mayor said the increase would cost the city $80,000 additional a year. Collections of garbage were virtually paralyzed Tuesday when the strikers left their jobs. After the white drivers reported back to work and drove convict labor about the city the collection increased. Since then the strikers reportedly have been going back to work in small units.

"PM Daily"
New York, N. Y.

Anti-Semitic Sheriff Fights Union Drive

U. S. Dept. of Justice Studies Charges That Georgia Official Issued Booklet Hitting at Labor Organizers

AUG 13 1942

By James A. Wechsler
PM's Bureau

PM Exclusive

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—PM was informed today that the Justice Dept. was giving "serious consideration" to a charge that a Georgia sheriff is inciting to violence against organizers for the International Ladies Garment Workers Union.

The accusation, now in the hands of the Civil Liberties unit of the Department, is based on a large anti-union manifesto inserted by G. W. Gaddis, Sheriff of Bartow County, in two Georgia newspapers. The statement reproduces a letterhead of the ILGWU, containing many Jewish names, and adds:

"The names on this letter don't sound like our folks down here."

Its publication followed an ILGWU organizing campaign among employes of the E-Z Mills Co. at Cartersville. This is the firm recently ordered by the War Labor Board to grant the ILGWU a union-security contract at its Bennington, Vt. plant. But Georgia officials apparently are preparing to prove that the South is different.

Inquiry Urged

Appealing to Victor Rotnem, head of the Civil Liberties unit, Frank McCallister, secretary of the Workers Defense League, urged an immediate inquiry.

"Before making this request," he said, "I consulted attorneys here with the National Labor Relations Board as to their opinion as to whether or not such action on the part of the Sheriff was sufficiently intimidating to warrant any action on the part of your Department.

"They told me they felt this was an open incitement to violence both against any union organizers and any workers who had the temerity to join the International Ladies Garment Workers Union."

Emphasizing that outbreaks in Bartow County would have more than local significance, McCallister declared:

"Between Atlanta and Chattanooga there are 20,000 bedspread makers who are now in the process of organization and if this incipient violence is not checked at the start, the whole area will become a scene of bloody struggle."

Paper Praises Sheriff

The advertisement, recalling that "we nearly had trouble and strikes a few years ago by a few people listening to outsiders they didn't know," was published in the Cartersville *Tribune-News* and the Bartow *Herald*. The *Tribune-News* simultaneously published an editorial praising Sheriff Gaddis for "his effort to keep down strife and turmoil."

ILGWU officials assert that deputy sheriffs invariably shadow girl organizers seeking to unionize the Cartersville plant, that their hotel rooms are searched and that reports on workers who meet with the organizer are submitted to the management.

Union spokesmen say a similar situation has developed in Barnesville, Ga., where organizers were recently warned by both the sheriff and chief of police to leave town. The plant being organized there is William Carter & Sons, which has a union contract at its Springfield, Mass. plant.

35i-1942

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Hotel Workers Refuse To Pass Picket Line

MAR 2 - 1942

130 Employes Stage Two-Day Strike in 'Chi'

CHICAGO—(ANP) — The two-day strike of 130 employes of three north side residential hotels, which resulted in great inconvenience to about 1,000 guests, was settled here last Tuesday afternoon afternoon when hotel officials and union members reached an agreement on certain moot points. The strike affected the Belden-Stratford, Webster and Parkway hotels and was called by the Hotel and Restaurant Employes International and Bartenders International league, local 593, in an attmept to secure an 11 percent wage increase.

At the Belden-Stratford hotel a number of Negro workers refused to buck the picket line established by striking employes. The management of the hotel had attempted to replace a Negro and white staff. Under pretent to changing to an all-colored staff and without mentioning the strike, the company called the Illinois State Employment service for 15 Negro workers, offering the same wages which had been held inadequate by strikers.

49 ARRESTED

A few workers, who had been unaware of the strike, announced their intentions of quitting after the picket line was formed. A total of 49 persons who attempted to picket the hotels were arrested by the state's attorney's police, charged with disorderly conduct and released on bail Tuesday.

When this act by the Lott Hotels company, under whose management the three hotels are operated, was discovered, the employment service refused to send more men to the job and immediately ordered an investigation into the situation upon complaint made by Mike Lee, senior business agent of ocal 593, and Milton Kramer, Midwest Workers Defense league secretary.

However late Tuesday afternoon, Byron Cain, trustee of the hotels, announced that he and James Blakely, secretary-treasurer of the Hotel and Restaurant employes international and Bartenders International league, local 593, had reached an agreement on certain moot points and that the union employes—principally maids and kitchen help—were reporting back on their jobs that night.

CONTINUE FIGHT

"The employes are going to work and we will continue to negotiate for a new contract," Cain averred. He declined, however, to discuss the nature of the terms.

Commenting upon the action of workers who refused to buck the picket line, Atty. Ulysses S. Keys, secretary of the Chicago NAACP branch and member of the midwest committee of the Workers Defense league, declared:

"The Negro workers who refused to scab are to be congratulated for frustrating the attempt of the hotel company to break the strike by taking advantage of unemployment among Negroes due to discrimination in industry.

"They have shown the way to defeat company-fostered antagonism between white and Negro workers.

"They have again demonstrated that Negro and white workers can best attain their common advantage by cooperating together."

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

BARTENDERS UNION OF CHICAGO PLEDGES LOYALTY TO U. S. A.

Group Hears Fiery Speech Backing Roosevelt from J. Levirt Kelly, Head of Local

CHICAGO, Ill.—Six hundred bartenders, cooks and waitresses of Local 444 voted to stand solidly behind President Roosevelt and his administration through this the most crucial period in the history of the country at their weekly meeting Friday, June 26th.

J. Levirt Kelly, the president of the local, was enthusiastically applauded by his followers when he shouted, "Regardless of what is now being said about our country,

ILLINOIS

it is the only land in which the black man has enjoyed the highest standards of living and the best opportunities for educational, cultural and economic advncement. Even in France before the arrival of Hitler, the black man, though he had social equality, was denied the right to work in the French industries located in Paris."

Mr. Kelly announced to his membership that he is inaugurating a MARCH ON TOKIO MOVEMENT, and he is also busy arranging for a Good-Will Caravan that will tour the country and urge the American Negro to stand and fight to the man with Uncle Sam and thereby be a li[illegible] example of the teachings of Job: "Though he slay me, [illegible] will I trust him."

After Mr. Kelly's fiery speech defending the United States, union members pledged to carry the message of their president to the thousands of people whom they contact daliy at the various taverns, restaurants, stores and hotels where they are employed.

JUL 3 1942

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

WORK FOR COLORED GIRLS.

Chicago, Nov. 17.—I am speaking not only for myself, but for a number of other colored girls. People say there is work for every one. There is work for every one except colored girls.

After reading the ads, we take addresses and pay out carfare to apply for different jobs to be told, "Sorry, we are filled up," or "Sorry, white only." We girls feel we should do something for our boys who are in the armed forces, too. And for our country. Buy defense bonds and stamps? How can we buy any when we haven't any jobs?

We are citizens of the United States. We know no other home. I am 28 years old. I know I am not too old or too young for a job.

DISHEARTENED.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.

CHICAGO UNIONISTS TAKE DEFINITE STAND AGAINST JIM CROWISM; DEMAND EQUAL RIGHTS

Wants President's Non-Discrimination Order Enforced by Law Through FEPC

NEGROES' CIVIL RIGHTS SHOULD BE PROTECTED

CHICAGO.—(ANP)—One of the strongest commitments ever made by a labor organization against racial discrimination and jim crowism [illegible] the resolution unanimously passed at the July meeting of the Chicago Industrial council, Samuel Levin, president.

AUG 15 1942

The council is affiliated with the CIO. Herb March of the Packinghouse Workers' Organizing committee, heads the council committee appointed to carry out the program against discriminatory practices.

Carrying a punch in every paragraph, the resolution provides:

"That full equality and citizenship rights be granted Negro Americans everywhere and all laws denying Negroes their constitutional and civil rights be immediately abolished; that the Pepper Anti-Poll Tax bill be passed.

"That legislation be passed immediately empowering the FEPC to punish violators of its orders and that federal funds be withheld without delay from industries violating Executive Order 8802 or clauses in war contracts which already forbid discrimination.

"That the War Production board order the immediate hiring of Negro workers in war industries without discrimination; that discriminatory practices in projects in war industries be abolished and that machinery with authority be established in the War Manpower commission to enfore this order.

"That the federal government take effective steps to protect the civil rights and personal safety of Negro Americans from police, mob and individual violence and in cases of such violence against Negroes the federal government punish to the limit of the law parties found guilty [illegible] that President Roosevelt extend an immediate executive pardon to those Scottsboro boys still imprisoned.

"That jim crow and discrimination be ended in all branches of the armed services and mixed volunteer units be established immediately as [illegible] in that direction and that Negro candidates be admitted to all existing naval training stations and army air corp training centers.

"That the WPB train 100,000 additional Negro workers for war industries by Oct. 1, that ways and means be worked out by the federal government to finance these w[illegible] during their training period.

"That a Negro be appointed immediately to the War Manpower commission.

"That joint labor-management-government committees be established in each industry upon the initiative of the War Manpower commission to assist in this program to end job promotional and wage discrimination.

"That Negroes be appointed to all government policy and regulatory bodies such as rationing and price control boards and that the OPA take effective measures to eliminate discriminatory food, rent and other prices in Negro communities.

"That there shall be no discrimination against Negroes in civil service jobs.

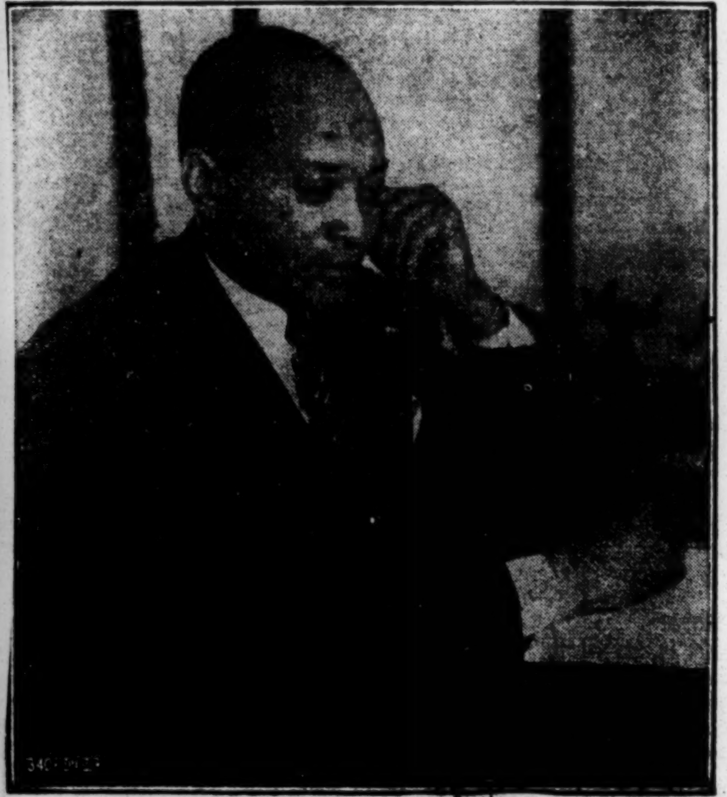
"That the War Manpower Commission, in cooperation with other

gov[illegible] initiate a to lead the drive in Chicago a-
joint national conference of gov- gainst discrimination of Negroes
ernment, management, labor and in this and work in cooper-
Negro organizations to convene ation with the FEPC and all
Labor day to hasten and make other organizations.
certain the end of job and train-
ing discrimination.

"That the Chicago Industrial Union council set up a committee

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

'March on tokio' Move Launched In Chicago



CHICAGO—Waiters, waitresses, bartenders and cooks unions should oppose the **March on Washington Committee**, suggested J. Levirt Kelly, president of Local 444, here this week. Even more, he has launched his own opposition organization, the **March on tokio** body, which he hopes to be the rallying point for all Negroes who wish to show the President and Congress they are solidly behind the war effort. Kelly has little patience with Negroes who rant as if they were outsiders, separate and apart from Americans in general. "I am just as much American as the citizens of German, Irish, English, or Swedish extraction," he stated. "And what is more, my people contributed generations of labor and toil to make this country great. It has in payment given us freedom, education, wealth, and prosperity. I know no other flag but Old Glory and will do my utmost to smash anybody or any group which plays into the hands of the enemy to hurt it."

JUL 4 1942

Kelly means what he says as anyone who has witnessed his meteoric rise in labor circles can testify. He brought thousands of Negro waiters, waitresses, bartenders and cooks into union ranks and insisted that employers pay them a fair wage under decent conditions. **Now he plans to devote his** organizing ability and genius for getting results to the **March On tokio** movement. hitler to him is just another boss who wants to enslave all America.

JUL 4 1942

On the positive side the **March On tokio** movement urges 100 percent cooperation with the government and President on rationing, the conservation of scrap metal and rubber, purchase of defense bonds, contributions to USO, the Red Cross, and voluntary entrance into defense programs. Sponsors, led by Kelly, are opposed to annoying the President with petty matters when the fate of the nation hangs in the balance. It seeks to promote understanding and a comradeship in arms between Negro and white workers in the common cause of defeating the axis.

It is against that faction of Negroes who are bent on emphasizing the fight on civil rights when the enemy at the gate threatens to deprive us even of the right to live. We stand with the rest of American groups for one V—with all other spurious symbols cast out. Very soon **March on tokio** will have its own patriotic rally to let the world know that Negro Americans by the side of other racial groups are trodding one path—to Victory.

JUL 4 1942

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MECHANISTS

35i-1942
Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Admit Negroes In Machinists' Local

MAR 1 5 1942

MAR 1 5 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C. —(ANP) —Encouraging reports on the induction of Negroes in the International Association of Mechanists, which hitherto has barred them from membership, are said to emanate from the west coast, where the Lockheed Vega plant at Burbank has suspended all of the rules of the union referring to "race" and inducted three Negroes into the union.

This was in Lodge 727, it is reported, and the group plans to induct an even larger group of Negroes since the plant itself has surpassed all others in hiring of Negro workers on the coast.

When the management started out with its plan to hire Negroes, its first group went to work very quietly. But when the total reached 100 and another Negro worker was to be taken on, the officials invited Joe Louis to the plant to assist in inducting the worker on the job.

MAR 1 5 1942

Proud of its record, the Lockheed Vega firm will have around 300 Negroes in all capacities when it finishes its increases.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

351

Machinists Change Attitude In Two Discrimination Cases

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(SNS)—The President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice today was advised by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, that the cases of complaint of discrimination against the Houston, and the Durham, Local Lodge of the International Association of Machinists have been satisfactorily adjusted.

JUL 1 9 1942

In the Houston, Texas, case Lodge No. 12 of the International Association of Machinists had issued a card calling upon whites to join that organization in order to oppose the admission of Negroes into skilled trades.

At the insistence of Mr. Green, H. W. Brown, International president of the International Association of Machinists took appropriate action to discontinue the use of these cards. In announcing the Local Lodge's decision to discontinue the use of the card, T. F. Peschka, business representative, District No. 37, advised Mr. Brown as follows:

> **"We all make blunders at times. The machinists have helped organize Negro labor and have been helpful in securing wage increases in shops where Negro labor is used."**

In the Durnam, Noth Carolina, case, Lodge No. 71 of the International Association of Machinists had advised L. L. McClintock, general manager, Wright's Automatic Tobacco Packing Machine Company, with which that Lodge had a closed shop agreement, that "Lodge No. 721 of the International Association of Machinists admits to its membership only competent, white candidates.

JUL 1 9 1942

It would, therefore, be impossible for your company to employ in the mechancial departments persons of other race than white under the terms of the contract you hold with Lodge 721." H. W. Brown, International President of the International Association of Machinists, has advised Local Lodge No 721 of Durham, North Carolina, that it must do nothing to interfere with Executive Order No. 8802 of June 25, 1941, and has directed the officers of the Lodge to withdraw its letter to Mr. McClintock.

JUL 1 0 1942

351-1942
Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF MINE, MILL AND SMELTER WORKERS

Union Leaders Threatened For Denouncing Racial Bias

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Aug. 13—Alton Lawrence, regional co-ordinator for the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, charged that he had been threatened because of support of policies of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice.

The committee recently recommended at a hearing here that discrimniation against Negroes on defense jobs be brought to an end. This touched [illegible] declarations by Gov. Frank Dixon of Alabama and Gov. Eugene Talmadge of Georgia that the Federal government was interfering with the policy of race segregation in the South.

PROTESTS TO FBI

Lawrence made his protests in telegrams to J. Edgar Hoover, head of the FBI and Malcolm McLean, chairman of the President's committee.

Lawrence complained that Mike Ross, international representative of the union, and several others had been threatened with violence and that several had been assaulted because they attempted to force employment of Negro workers on war jobs and enforce equal payment for the colored workers.

Lawrence's message also charged that threatening, anonymous letters had been sent them, in violation of Federal laws. They asked the government to prosecute the offenders.

CIO DENOUNCES DIXON

Lawrence also announced that a group of CIO leaders, meeting in Birmingham early this week, had denounced the action of Governor Dixon in cancelling a contract for the State prison mills here in that the contract specified that equal conditions be provided all workers regardless of color, race or creed.

The CIO leaders sent copies of the letter to Dixon and to CIO unions in all parts of the country. However, Dixon declined comment on the statement.

The Fair Employment Practice committee was set up by President Roosevelt about a year ago and has since been investigating reports of discrimination against Negroes in Southern Defense industries.

RACE LEADERS REMAIN NEUTRAL

It has investigated about a dozen cases in the Alabama region since its organization. It held a hearing in Birmingham in June, but so far, no report has been filed.

Southern political leaders, since the hearing, have united in charging the committee intends to destroy the segregation system in the South. Racial leaders have remained neutral, in the main, on the controversy in this section.

AUG 13 1942

351

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

NEW ORLEANS DOCK WORKERS VOTE FOR INDEPENDENT UNION

FEB 14 1942

A. F. of L. Turned Down 105 To 7; College Youth Lead Move.

(Special to the Labor News)—Both of the major labor unions this week received a black eye when the workers employed at the Mississippi Vally Barge Line voted 105 to 7 last week to remain in the Louisiana Laborer's Protective Asociation, an independent union.

For sometime there has been considerable agitation among the workers to join the American Federation of Labor. When only a few of the workers have signed authorization cards in favor of the American Federation of Labor, it resorted to an old trick used by both major unions by petitioning the Labor Board to hold an election and in the meantime excited and intimidated the workers to join the union.

Under the militant leadership of the youthful Olliver H. Barconey, president and founder of the Independent organization, the workers refused to listen to propaganda that there were no bonafide labor unions except the AFL and CIO. Barconey, student at Xavier College, has won widespread praises for leading these workers, composed of freight handlers, crane operators and laborers, to victory.

FEB 14 1942

When the organization was founded in 1937, the workers pay was 35 cents per hour for freight handlers and $29.00 per week for crane operators. The pay has been increased to 64 cents per hour for freight handlers and improved working conditions have been secured.

Barconey's activities and his statement at the conclusion of the election are most significant. In view of the fact that most Negro youth, North and South, have been inspired to follow the "left wing" of the C. I. O., which has a stronghold in New Orleans, it is becoming more and more evident that Negroes in this area are changing their attitude toward the major unions. Barconey's statement follows:

"I feel that laboring men throughout the country and especially in New Orleans, are entitled to the right to select the union and the leaders they want to represent them. I don't believe in men and organizations being controlled by uncrupulous persons in the manner we have witnessed during the past few years in this city."

FEB 14 1942

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

STRIKE TERMS TURNED DOWN BY OWNERS

Board Mediator Returns To Washington For Settlement Order

MAY 2 - 1942

NEW ORLEANS, La. — Robert Abelow, special mediator of the national War Labor board stated before leaving for Washington last week that the local laundry operators had dclined to accept the recommendations of a panel of the WLB for a settlement of their dispute with the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union which held a two week strike against 80 odd laundries. The C.I.O. union stated that it had expressed willingness to accept the labor war board's proposal for settlement. This was verified by Abelow.

The laundry owners charged that the union had violated its contract by calling a strike and holds that the contract with the union be voided. The union holds that the laundries violated the contract by refusal to negotiate with union officials. The WLB holds that both parties had violated the contract, but not to the extent that the contract can be voided and advised that both live up to the conditions of the contract which gives the A.C.W union bargaining rights for its employees.

MAY 2 - 1942

The WLB mediator stated that he will report to the WLB panel in Washington and "that body will report to the general board which will go over the case and then issue an order for settlement."

The laundry owners want to avoid the CIO contract and disband closed shop. The issue came to a head after the laundry owners refused to accept a union request for a blanket 10 cent raise to all employees. The union charged that the laundries shut out their employees when they reported for work the morning after the conference.

Both sides have promised that they will do nothing to aggravate the situation until the matter is settled.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, PA.

POWERFUL LOUISIANA LABOR LEADER IS AMBUSHED

JUN 6 - 1942

NEW ORLEANS, La.—June 4—Harry Netter, powerful president of the Longshoremen Union, was ambushed and shot early Monday morning by an unknown assailant. The shooting is believed to be the result of bad feelings existing in the bitter labor fight between three factions to control the dock workers organization. The assailant's bullet struck Netter over the right eye as he drove his car into the garage in the rear of his home.

35i-1942

LOUISIANA

All-White Union Resorts To Race-Baiting Tactics

"The Informer"
Houston, Tex.

NEW ORLEANS. —(ANP) —Negro baiting tactics which contradict the aims of the war this country is fighting, and which follows the same line presented by Gov. Eugene Talmadge of Georgia in his vicious attempt to divide the state on a basis of race and color are being used by the Co-Operative Street Railway Employes association, as revealed by the July 27 issue of a pamphlet being circulated among the bus drivers and street car operators of the New Orleans Public Service, Inc.

The appeals made to the white employes of the company are viewed as dangerous to national unity and tend to separate American citizens on a basis of race and color, according to statements from Negroes and liberal whites who have read the nazi-like propaganda sheet. It is alleged that the pamphlet is used to combat the efforts of union leaders to organize the public service workers, and declares that the union policy is ". . . to have white men and colored men, white women and colored women in the same union."

55A

The article asks, "Why don't you (referring to union organizers) tell those good people that your . . . outfit has white and colored people in the same union here in New Orleans? Why don't you tell them that white men and colored men, here in New Orleans, are holding office in the same Transport Workers' union? Why not tell these people that white men and white women, here in New Orleans, are subject to orders of colored agents . . . ? Why don't you tell these people that the wives of white . . . leaders and the wives of colored . . . leaders, here in New Orleans, hold office in the same women's auxiliary . . . and inform them that they will be greeted by colored sisters who are also officers of this auxiliary."

AUG 15

"The Informer"

It was hinted that this move on the part of the alleged company-controlled organization has the possibilities of subversive motives, designed for the specific purpose of demoralizing the civilian defense organization which, too, is built on an interracial basis. It was further pointed out that there seems to be connections between these race-hating tactics and the method by which state politicians tried to pass sales tax law, and that it resembled too much the anti-war propaganda promoted by the arch isolationists who are fighting President Roosevelt's war policy.

Houston

A white minister who read the pamphlet called the attack "dangerous and un-Christian," adding that he hoped whites would not be deceived by this "divided and conquer" attempt.

351-1942
Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

MARYLAND

Company Rehires 3 When Union Threatens Walkout

MAY 23 1942

BALTIMORE

Three men, fired by officials of the Eastern Rolling Mills Company when they complained of excessive work and lack of opportunities for advancement, were rehired by the company, shell casting manufacturers, after the Steel Workers' Organizing Committee threatened to call a strike.

Lamar Cook, SWOC national organizer, told the AFRO that negotiations are now under way toward recovering back pay for men during the almost two weeks that they were out of work.

The men, William White of 907 W. Franklin Street, Edgar Washington of 1501 W. Saratoga Street, and Melvin Eppes of 725 N. Eden Street, all members of SWOC Local 1245, were reinstated with the understanding that an additional man will be employed in their department.

It was also agreed that when- the work of four they will split the fourth man's pay.
thes fourth man's pay.

MAY 23 1942

Walkout Still Looms

Mr. Cook further revealed that just prior to this action on the part of the company, ten more of the employees threatened a walkout, the second in three weeks, because the company refused them permission to consult with the union's grievance committee on their working conditions.

The men charged that they were confined to laborers' jobs at a basic rate of 67½ cents an hour and a maximum of 72½ cents, while whites are hired on the same jobs at pay beginning at 75 cents an hour, which rate is soon advanced to [illegible] cents after they are taught the work by colored employees.

MAY 23 1942

MICHIGAN

35i-1942
Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Race Man Wins Union Position By 12,000 Votes

White Opponents Beaten in Race For $4,500 Job

MAY 18 1942

DETROIT—(ANP)—A new page was turned last week in the Motor City's labor history when Shelton Tappes, chairman of Foundry units of Ford UAW, Local 600, and the only colored candidate for a major office, was elected by a majority of more than 12,000 votes over his closest white opponent as recording secretary of the large Ford local.

Tappes received the highest number of votes of any of the candidates in the race for various offices, which can be termed as a sweeping victory because most of those who voted for him were white.

His nearest white opponent for the recording secretaryship received only 9,840 votes, whiles Tappes polled more than 21,000 votes.

MAY 18 1942

This secretary position carries a salary of $4,500 per year. The new recording secretary is chairman of the production foundry unit at the Rouge. He is also secretary of the general council and of the plant bargaining committee.

Tappes is 31 years of age. Has been employed at the Ford River Rouge plant only six years. He is married and has one child.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

ROW OVER NEGROES STOPS TRUCK PLANT

3,000 War Workers Sent Home as 350 Protest at Chrysler Unit in Detroit

JUN 3 - 1942

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DETROIT, June 2—Officials at the Dodge Truck Division of the Chrysler Corporation shut down the plant today and sent 3,000 war workers home after 350 employes had protested the employment of Negroes on war jobs at the plant. They were ordered to report back for work for their regular shift on Wednesday.

Trouble started soon after noon, when the Negroes, who are employes of Chrysler transferred from other work, appeared at the plant. About 350 employes immediately stopped work and began a protest demonstration at the plant manager's office. Sporadic fighting between the workers and the Negroes broke out, but was quickly stopped, although plant officials said that tension between the groups continued high.

A spokesman for the Chrysler Corporation said that the Negroes were transferred to the plant, which is building trucks for the Army, in accordance with seniority provisions that are included in the contract between the corporation and the United Automobile Workers, a C. I. O. union.

J. Lawrence Duncan of the Negro employment and training branch of the War Production Board announced, after the disturbance, that the Negroes had been assigned to the war jobs at his request. International officers of the C. I. O. were cooperating with the transfers, he said, but a minority group in the plant local caused the shutdown.

JUN 3 - 1942

Morris Field, assistant director of the C. I. O. Chrysler Division, said that the local "will have to accept the Negroes."

"The union's policy calls for equal treatment of Negroes and so does the American Constitution," he commented, and ordered local officers and members to accept the transfers.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

SECRETARY KNOX AND THE DETROIT STRIKE

JUL 4 1942

The intervention of Navy Secretary Knox in the strike against the employment of Negroes in the Hudson Naval Ordnance plant of Detroit ,has evoked healthy reactions from quarters hitherto critical of Colonel Knox's attitude toward black Americans.

The strike was called by white workers as a protest against Negro labor in the plant. The Hudson Naval Ordnance which is a division of the Hudson Motor Car company, is engaged in vital war production. A cessation of work on a ground of race at a time when vested national interests are at stake admits of no other interpretation than a deliberate attempt to retard and hamper the war efforts.

The walkout by the local union of the United Automobile Workers of Detroit was not authorized, for only the international union has a right to call strikes. Not only was it unauthorized, it violated a pledge given to President Roosevelt that there would be no strikes for the duration of the war. Furthermore, it disregarded the President's Executive Order which prohibits racial discrimination in the war industries.

As Secretary Knox said in his statement to the inspector of naval ordnance plants in the Michigan area, "Such action is clearly in violation of the President's Executive Order 8802. This plant is engaged solely in vital war production, is entirely owned by the government which bears all costs, and has been designated as a military reservation.

"Under such circumstances refusal to continue normal work warrants assumption men are disloyal to the government and not only subject to immediate dismissal, but may be prevented from obtaining employment in other industry establishments engaged in war production."

JUL 4 1942

The statement should have carried with it the threat of jail sentences for the workers who interfere with the normal operation of the war industries. At any rate Secretary Knox's stand in the Detroit situation should command our approval. For, any concession to race prejudice in this critical hour is a blow struck at democracy.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Navy Lauds Union for Quick Action

JUN 2 1942

(Special to The Worker)

DETROIT, June 20—Four employes of the Hudson Naval Arsenal here who took a leading part in the provocative wild cat strike of a handful of men who "refused to work with Negroes," have been fired with the full approval of the United Automobile Workers and the big war plant is again operating at full speed, Richard T. Frankensteen, regional director of the union said late today.

The strike in which only a few hundred of the 11,000 workers in the plant took any part was branded as illegal by the union through UAW President R. J. Thomas. Thomas said he had reason to believe that the Ku Klux Klan was behind the disturbance.

Today Capt. A. S. Wotherspoon, chief naval inspector at the arsenal, praised the union, the union stewards and Frankensteen "for doing a grand job in getting the plant back to work."

"The union," said Wotherspoon, "has been on the right side all along in this dispute and has obeyed the president's order to get back to work."

Frankensteen said the Navy had fired the men with the **"wholehearted approval" of both international and local officials of the UAW-CIO. He said the plant now was operating "100 per cent" and that the union anticipated "no further trouble."**

JUN 2 1942

Secretary of Navy Frank Knox had warned the men that unless they resumed their jobs immediately they would be barred from future war production work.

Frankensteen and other union officials reported at the arsenal at 4 A. M. today after hearing rumors of further trouble at the plant.

"There was further talk of stoppages," Frankensteen said, "but we were able to prevent them."

351-1942

Mobile. Ala. Press
January 19, 1942

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION OPPOSED BY N. M. U. HERE

The Mobile branch of the ~~National~~ Maritime Union (CIO) today had requested all ship owners to make known their position on discrimination against negroes, Filipinos and Puerto Ricans as seamen, according to an announcement by Mack Hankins, acting agent.

He said the union had advised operators that if any ships carrying war materials are held up because trained negro seamen are refused jobs, the blame will be placed on the ship operators and not the union. The local N. M. U. branch at its January meeting, adopted a resolution covering the issue.

WANTED UNION TO REPLACE CREWMEN

Pittsburg Courier
Pittsburg, Penn

FEB 21 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 19.—How efforts of the British Ministry of Shipping to replace by white seamen the full Negro crew in the stewards' department of the SS. West Jaffrey in New York harbor were recently frustrated by ~~the National Maritime Union~~ was revealed ~~here~~ last week.

The U. S. Maritime Commission is reported to have claimed that it was ignorant of the situation, and union officials called the Export Line, which informed them that the British Ministry of Shipping was behind the demand that an all-white crew be placed on the West Jaffrey.

FEB 21 1942

UNION TAKES FIRM STAND

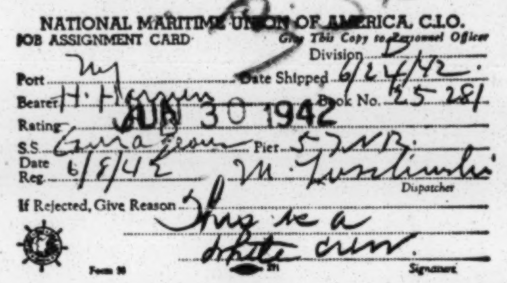
The Maritime Union then took the position that unless the United States Government, through the organization's recognized agencies, sent a wire or a letter with the seal of the Government on it telling it to take the crew off, it would not be done because the British Ministry wished it.

The position of the Export Line is said to have been that it had a contract with the Maritime Union which had supplied a satisfactory crew, and if the British Ministry of Shipping wanted to remove any men it would have to deal with the union, not with the line.

Union Protest Ends Ship Color Ban

"PM Daily" New York, NY

This is the card the ~~National Maritime Union~~ (NMU) gives its members when they are sent from the union hiring hall to take jobs on shipboard:



NATIONAL MARITIME UNION OF AMERICA, C.I.O.
JOB ASSIGNMENT CARD — Give This Copy to Personnel Officer
Division D
Port NY — Date Shipped 6/24/42
Bearer H. [illegible] — Book No. 25 281
JUN 30 1942
Rating
S.S. Curacao — Pier 57 NR
Date Reg. 6/8/42 — M. [illegible] Dispatcher
If Rejected, Give Reason: This is a white crew.
Form 30 — Signature

Last week four Negro members of the union received assignments on two Grace line ships (names withheld) by means of these cards.

As is shown by the company's notation on the slip, the seamen had been turned down because of their color, despite FDR's dictum that race, color or creed shall be no bar to taking part in the war effort.

JUN 30 1942

The crews of the two ships held meetings and objected strongly to the discrimination. John Rogan, NMU agent in New York, lodged a formal protest with the company.

As a result, when Rogan sent the men to the ships 24 hours later, they were quickly accepted. They're on the high seas now.

NATIONAL MARITIME UNION
Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Maritime Union Ethusiastic Over Naming Of Negro Captain

SEP 27 1942

President Curran Asserts Act Is Answer to Nazi Race Policy

NEW YORK.—(SNS)—The National Maritime Union made public today a letter sent by President Joseph Curran to Captain Edward Macauley of the War Shipping Administration praising his appointment of Captain Hugh Mulzac to command the BOOKER T. WASHINGTON:

"September 24, 1942

Captain Edward Macauley
War Shipping Administration
Washington, D. C.

SEP 27 1942

Dear Captain Macauley:

"May I, on behalf of the National Maritime Union, extend my heartiest congratulations to you on your appointment of Captain Hugh Mulzac to command the Liberty freighter BOOKER T. WASHINGTON?

"I know of no other action by our Government which will bolster the morale of the Negro people to a comparable degree. And it is not alone the Negro people who will rejoice at this appointment. There are thousands of others who have longed for some deed that would show that all the talk about the Four Freedoms was not just empty talk.

SEP 27 1942

"We are proud that Captain Mulzac is a member of the National Maritime Union, and we are certain that he will serve honorably and well with the other men of the sea who are adding a new glorious chapter to the history of the American merchant marine.

A freighter named the BOOKER T. WASHINGTON, sponsored by Marian Anderson, and commanded by Hugh Mulzac—that is America's answer to Nazi distortions about our attitude toward the great Negro people.

SEP 27 1942

Sincerely yours,
Joseph Curran, presirent
National Maritime
Uuion, CIO.

NMU Seeks to Aid Job Applicants

California Eagle
Los Angeles, Cal.

Since December 7th, many Negroes on the Pacific coast have tried to get into the merchant marine training schools, in order to become seamen for the merchant ships.

OCT 29 1942

While many Negroes on the Atlantic coast have been able to get into the schools and have since been put aboard ship, just the reverse is true of the Maritime schools on the Pacific coast. To date not one Negro has been able to break through the wall of discrimination raised on the Pacific coast.

The National Maritime Union (CIO) in an effort to carry out the President's Program of no discrimination would like all those Negroes who have applied for Merchant Marine training and have for one reason or another either been turned down or had their application pigeonholed get in touch with their Regional Office by mail, in writing, please give the date of application, what efforts have since been made to get into the schools, and what replies have been given the applicant.

OCT 29 1942

Please send all letters to Regional Office, National Maritime Union, 27 Clay Street, San Francisco, Calif.

'We Back the President' --Ferdinand Smith

"The Daily Worker." New York, N.Y.

Ferdinand Smith, National Secretary, National Maritime Union, CIO, in speaking for 50,000 members of the union, told the crowd at the Union Square Second Front rally, in part:

WE ARE all here today for one purpose—to demonstrate that we are united behind the expressed purpose of the President—the opening up of a Second Front—Now!

We must deal sternly with the small group of defeatists and appeasers who are sabotaging our nation's unity.

These same defeatists show their true colors more clearly when we examine their domestic policies. They are the believers in the Nazi doctrine of racial superiority. They are the persons who deny jobs to loyal, competent workers for no other reason than that they are Negroes; or Jews; or have foreign-sounding names. They are the ones that engage in lynching bees on the cowardly pretext that they are protecting the South from "black domination."

End discrimination in America and the cause of the United Nations will be strengthened, not only here, but throughout the world.

We must open that Second Front!

Negro soldiers are in Ireland and England ready to strike at Hitler's rear. They are ready to give their lives to secure freedom, not only for colored people, but for all peoples. They place no conditions on their determination to fight to the death.

SEP 27 1942

SEP 27 1942

SEP 27 1942

4

231

351-1942
The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

NEW YORK

How Two Unions Here Fight Job Discrimination

MAY 5 - 1942

By Eugene Gordon

How do we fight Hitlerite practices on the home front?

This story gives one answer. It gives the answer of the Bloomingdale and the Macy locals of United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employes, CIO.

Eugene Ellis, tall, slender, personable and self-confident, is president of the Bloomingdale local. William Atkinson, not so tall but equally personable and self-confident, is president of the Macy local.

Each is young enough to expect an early call from his draft board.

Both are elevator operators, Atkinson being a starter.

Both are Negroes.

Atkinson and Ellis have been leaders from the first in their union's campaign to integrate Negroes in department store jobs other than running elevators, attending rest rooms and sweeping floors.

The stores the union intends to crack in its drive on Jim Crow are Macy's, Bloomingdale's, Gimbel's, Oppenheim Collins, Stern's and Saks, all of which hold contracts with the union.

Ellis for several days has been meeting, with other union leaders and Bloomingdale's management, in negotiations for contract renewal. He is largely responsible for the clause in the local's contract calling for Negroes in all capacities at Bloomingdale's. The management tells Mr. Ellis and his union it will be "happy" to hire Negro salespeople, clerks and the like, "if the white employes don't mind."

WORKERS WANT ACTION

Memberships of the two locals declared by their action the other night not only that they "don't mind" but that they insist upon it. Each local passed a resolution demanding the hiring of Negroes.

"When our International convenes in Chicago May 18," Ellis said, "We'll present a resolution demanding employment of Negroes—in all capacities—by every department store with which we have a contract. And there's no doubt it will pass."

Atkinson also has just finished negotiating a similar contract with the Macy management. He has been a member of his local three years. He was elected head of these 3,500 workers—of whom 100 are Negroes—early this year.

Macy's local has three divisions—store, warehouse and delivery. The majority of the Negro workers are elevator operators, restaurant help and elevator starters.

"And most of them capable of holding better jobs," Atkinson said.

"How do you get along with the white members of the union?"

"Fine," he said. "Our union here is behind all moves to do away with discrimination, no matter what its form. The main question is whether a man or woman can do the job. Hitler's shells aren't labeled 'white' and 'black'."

Atkinson is a graduate of St. John's University, Brooklyn. He has completed one year in law. He hopes to make "labor" his career.

UNION PIONEER

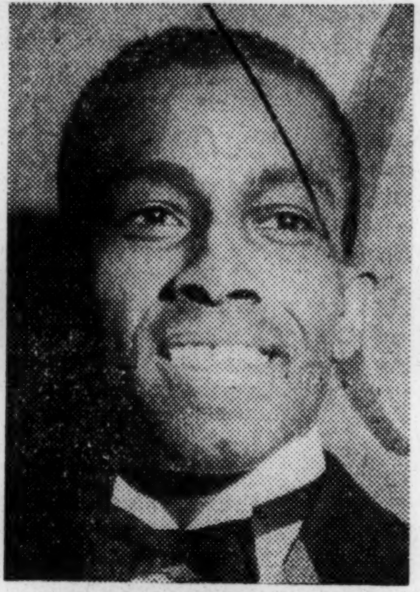
Eugene Ellis helped organize Bloomingdale's six years ago. At the first election he became vice-president; succeeded himself next year. The president having resigned, Ellis moved into that position at the third election. He has been re-elected president once.

"Our local, officially known as Local 3, has 16 Negroes among its 2,000 members," Ellis said.

He is a graduate of Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte, N. C. Has done graduate work in chemistry at Cornell and Columbia, with a course in social service at New York University.

A white unionist said Atkinson and Ellis are "well liked" by those who keep them in office and "highly respected" by the opposition. The union, he reminds us, if fighting Hitler on the home front.

WILLIAM ATKINSON



EUGENE ELLIS

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Dept. Store Union, Negro Leaders Plan Job Fight

MAY 30 1942

Department store union leaders met with representatives of Negro organizations yesterday at the Hotel Theresa, Seventh Ave. and 125th St., and worked out a plan for a conference of store heads for employment of Negroes.

Representatives at yesterday's meeting were:

Local 1, Macy, Marcella Loring, organizer, and William Atkinson, president: Local 2, Gimbels, Herman Seiden, business manager, and Anna Blanck, secretary-treasurer; Local 3, Bloomingdale, Lowell Morris, business manager, and Eugene Ellis, president; Local 5, Sterns, Frederick Fried, business manager; Local 2, Oppenheim-Collins, Dean Zavaterro, business manager; Local 1250, Hearns, George Meiller, business manager, and Nicholas Carnes, business agent.

These locals are all members of the United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees of America, CIO.

Negro organizations and their representatives present included Mrs. Dorothy K. Funn, of the Brooklyn National Negro Congress; Charles Collins, business agent, Hotel and Club Employees Local Union No. 6, AFL; Henry K. Craft, executive secretary, 135th St. YMCA; Ewart Guinier, secretary Negro Labor Victory Committee; Miss C. C. Saunders, executive secretary, Harlem YWCA, Hope Stevens, Manhattan Council, National Negro Congress; Miss Jessie Scott, Ashland Branch YWCA, Brooklyn; Clarence Johnson, Brooklyn Urban League; Dr. Robert Searle, chairman, City-Wide Citizens Committee on Harlem; Charles Collier, New York Urban League.

With the exception of Collins and the addition of George Meisler, representing the department store unions, all were elected a committee to ask the Governor's Committee on Discrimination to help in arranging the conference with department store managers.

Yesterday's meeting was initiated by the locals named above, following the national convention in Chicago this month of the United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees of America, CIO, which pledged an all-out fight to place Negroes in all categories of employment in department stores.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh.PA.

White Foreman Fired As Negro Workers Strike

OCT 3 - 1942

SAMPSON, N. Y., Oct. 1—(ANP)—A "sitdown" by 100 Negro members of a crew of 410 who resented attempts at discrimination resulted last week in the firing of the foreman, Thomas C. Flynn, white, reportedly of New York, on charges of "un-American activities."

The men were working for the John A. Johnson Construction Corporation, in charge of constructing the new naval base in this area. Of the entire force of 12,000, about 8,000 are Negroes.

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y

Automats Use Negro For All Menial Work

JUN 13 1942

The launching, almost simultaneously, of a drive by the Cafeteria Employes Union, Local 302, AFL, to organize Horn and Hardart Automat employes, and a probe by the Labor Victory Committee of H&H's policy on employment discrimination, has prompted PV to make its own survey of the situation. A reporter has checked on the LVC probe, toured half a dozen automats trying to find a Negro working in view of customers and finally checked on the union's claims of impartial treatment of Negroes. The LVC, comprising Dr. Olivierre, chairman; Ethel Kainford, secretary; Charles A. Collins, Attorney Hope Stevens, Assemblyman Hulan Jack and Councilman A. C. Powell jr, is preparing to confront H&H execs with the following findings:

H&H is non-union, has no minimum wage.

Negroes can work only as porters, dishwashers and kitchen helpers. They are kept strictly out of sight and are not hired as bus girls and boys.

H&H is hiring hundreds of girls due to men leaving for defense jobs and the army—yet they are not hiring colored girls.

There is a jimcro, company-sponsored employes' organization of Negroes. These segregated sick relief organizations—one for white and one for colored, must support themselves by dues and money raised by social affairs.

Promotion for Negroes limited. They receive an inconsequential bonus at Christmas time after making no demands all year and a constant turnover makes many miss this because they are gone before it is due.

JUN 13 1942

Negroes do only strong arm work in the baking and commissary departments.

About three "faithful" Negroes are used as "frontmen" to point to as outstanding examples of the impartial treatment of the company.

PV's findings on Local 302:

Every cafeteria union contract contains this clause: There shall be no discrimination because of race, color or creed. A clause permitting employers to fire the first week for any reason, has created a loophole for discrimination. The union has fought this in the past, as is evidenced by the presence of Negroes in some of the big midtown cafeterias. The union is now negotiating with a large association representing 60 per cent of the union's members, to eliminate the practice and remove all loopholes for discrimination which, it says, is against its policy.

Thomas Astwood, vice president of the union and an organizer in the present campaign, is a Negro.

The union endorses the U. E. Employment Service in its effort to eliminate discrimination.

To restaurant owners' pleas that their clientele will object to Negro employes, the union points out that the Consumers Cooperative Service (seven restaurants) employ almost all colored and still maintain high class clientele.

They say no member of the union has ever objected to working with Negroes, and if they did the union would not tolerate it.

JUN 13 1942

The union has passed resolutions condemning the poll tax, has ordered its own strong resolutions against work discrimination to be publicized and sent to President Roosevelt's Fair Employment Practice Committee.

351-1942

NEW YORK

Letters To and From the Editor:

P.M. Daily N.Y., N.Y.

Negroes in Trade Unions

Dear Editor:

Recently Attorney General Bennett ruled that the national constitution of a trade union cannot act as a bar to the admission of Negro workers to trade unions functioning in the State of New York. Although the decision concerned the Railway Mail Assn.—a group of Post Office employes—it will have its effect on the railroad unions and the AFL locals which have failed to lift the color bar because of pressure from the national organization.

Nov. 13, 1942

The decision which guarantees that Negro workers in the state will be guaranteed action on Section 42 of the Civil Rights Law will serve to cement the unity so necessary for the success of this war of survival. Action by progressive trade unionists will demonstrate that the rights of minorities and the Negro people are more than just slogans or paragraphs of some unenforced statute.

New York WILLIAM E. BROMSEN

The Public Must Learn

Dear Editor:

Air-raid drills will continue to be a flop until the general public loses its lackadaisical attitude of business-as-usual during a drill. Why shouldn't people heed the advice and warnings of the wardens to get off the streets, keep away from windows, etc? Must the bombing actualities of London and other war-scarred cities stare them in the face before they realize that the drills are for their own future protection against loss of life and limb?

Brooklyn MORRIS KLEINER

Army Morale Again

Dear Editor:

I think the problem of Army morale has been sadly neglected by the brass hats. The Army does nothing to encourage discussion of why we are fighting or what kind of a world after the war, etc.

I believe a campaign should be started and started immediately to force the services to include some discussions of these subjects in their training courses.

Atlantic City A. K.

Railway Mail Association Takes In 6 Negro Members For 1st Time

New York Age

Climaxing the recent decision of Attorney General John J. Bennett, upholding the Civil Rights Law of New York State in which he stated, "Jim Crow is dead in the labor movement in New York State," the New York City Branch of the Railway Mail Association Sunday afternoon at the Hotel Pennsylvania initiated into membership six fellow Negro railway postal clerks.

This local, headed by W. R. Mitiguy, secured this far-reaching decision when they opposed their national officers instruction to abide by the "Caucasian Clause" of the national union's constitution, referring the matter to Frieda Miller, New York State's Industrial Commissioner, who is chairman of the Committee on Discrimination of the State War Council.

Discrimination was also dealt a blow when the meeting voted to send telegrams to the Senators from New York, New Jersey, Pennesylvania, and Connecticut demanding that they be on hand to vote for cloture of the Poll-Tax repeal debate and insure passage of this important win-the-war legislation. Their own legislation seeking a mdch-needed, war time wage adjustment is tried up by the filibuster. Senator Mead is preparing to introduce legislation to ease the economic knot of postal employees at the first suitable moment.

The meeting concluded with a program of the Office of Civilian Defense, the showing of a film "Target for Tonight," depicting RAF activties, one of the best films of the war, and a short, "The World We Want To Live In." A representative of the Light Rescue Squad Service made a vigorous plea for volunteers. The local's War Committee has promised cooperation.

Nov 28, 1942

The Negro members are William M. Clemons, 113 Bainbridge street, Joseph B. Greene, 380 Madison street and William R. Dash, 972 St. John's place, Brooklyn; Owen Thompson, 436 Convent avenue; G. William Delamar, 211 West 149th street, and Wallace Dade, 133 N. Fullerton avenue, Montclair, N. J.

'Little Hitlers' Dangerous

Nov. 26, 1942

Besides being a good informative local sheet in New York for its section of the United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employes, CIO, "The Dept. Store Employe" also has an occasional word to say on national issues. The Nov. 6 issue urges union members to write Congressmen and tell them to pass the law to end the Poll Tax, because the Poll Tax breeds Hitlerism. We quote, in part:

DAILY WORKER

"When 80 to 95 per cent of the people are kept from voting, as happens in eight Southern states, you can expect such fascist practices as the cold-blooded lynching of three young Negro boys in Mississippi recently. . . .

NEW YORK

"Those Congressmen who perpetuate themselves in power year after year through this tax are the ones who are always in the forefront of disrupting vital win-the-war policies in our national government, are always trying to pass laws such as the Smith bill that would do away with trade unions and all-in-all form a bloc of little Hitlers right in our own Congress."

NEW YORK

LOCAL 89 OUSTS ANTI-NEGRO COOK

Negro discrimination injures our war effort, officials of **Cooks' Union, Local 89,** warned yesterday in removing a white worker from the job because he refused to work together with a Negro worker.

The union said the incident was one of a series, mainly directed against discriminating employers, in a bold attack against Negro discrimination.

Nov. 28, 1942

When Joseph Gonzales, the white worker, would not work side by side with his Negro co-worker, Daniel Robinson, and refused to eat at the same table with him, he was taken off the job and his union membership cancelled.

N.Y., N.Y.

The two were working at Ye Old Dutch Tavern, a restaurant at 15 St. John St., in New York's financial area.

Daily Worker

When Gonzales ignored union warnings that discrimination was banned in the union constitution and was a direct injury to the war effort by preventing full mobilization of Negro workers for unity against the fascist Axis, the union acted.

351-1942

NORTH CAROLINA

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

N. C .Federation Of Labor Elects Negro Vice-Prexy

AUG 22 1942

ASHEVILLE, N. C.—For the first time in its history the North Carolina Federation of Labor has elected as a vice president a Negro worker. The election was held at the closing session of the 36th annual convention of the fedreation.

The Negro worker is Haywood Williams, 32, a line-setting employee of the Liggett and Meyers Tobacco Company. A member of Local 194, Tobacco Workers' International Union. Williams has been an active unionist for more than five years. To elect him the federation had to amend its by-laws.

This marked the first time that a Negro union worker has been chosen as vice president of any Southern state federation, with the exception of the Alabama federation which has one Negro vice-president.

Charlotte, N. C. N
August 14, 1942

Precedent

State Labor Body Breaks With Southern Practice

The State Federation of Labor's election of a Negro unionist as a vice-president, necessitating a prior change in its by-laws, is a surprising procedure. Heretofore the American Federation of Labor, a national body, has been anything but insistent that the unions under its wings, even those with memberships largely in Northern states, should open their rolls to Negroes. It was too politic to suggest to unions with large Southern representation that they do anything of the kind.

The question of admitting Negroes has been left largely to the individual unions, which are autonomous and have the final decision. Most of them have decided against it from time to time, even in crafts where whites and Negroes worked side by side. The North Carolina Federation had no such circumstances to consider, nor, as far as we know, was urged on by insistence from any quarter.

Its action appears, on the contrary, to have been taken simply because of a belief that Negro union-members were entitled to recognition—that and with regard for the stated policies of President Roosevelt against racial discrimination in industry. It will have no effect on union practices, since the State Federation is only a loosely-organized association of unions, but it will undoubtedly serve to pose the question in such a way that unions will feel called upon to answer it—possibly, in view of this precedent, in the affirmative.

We are of two minds whether that will be desirable or undesirable, but for itself alone the State Federation's action appeals to us as an expression of good will among all men.

Durham, N. C. Sun
August 13, 1942

State Labor Group Elects Durham Negro

Williams First Member Of Race To Win Office

Horace Williams of Durham yesterday became the first Negro ever to be elected to office in the North Carolina Federation of Labor.

Williams was elected a vice-president at large at the closing session of the group's 36th annual convention at Asheville and will represent Negroes in the Federation.

Winston-Salem was selected as the 1943 meeting place.

George L. Googe of Savannah, Ga., Southern representative of the American Federation of Labor, told the delegates that everything else should be subordinated to the war effort but at the same time "it is necessary to keep the fundamentals of democracy functioning at home.

The convention referred to the executive board for investigation a resolution attacking the administration of the workmen's compensation law.

All officers were re-elected.

Amsterdam News
New York. N. Y

Elect 1st State Negro Labor Leader in N. C.

AUG 22 1942

ASHEVILLE, N. C.—For the first time in its history the North Carolina Federation of Labor elected a Negro as a vice president.

AUG 22 1942

The action was taken here last week at the closing session of the 36th annual convention of the Federation. The Negro is Haywood Williams, of Durham, N. C. 32 years old, a line-setting employe of the Liggett & Myers Tobacco Company.

He is a member of Local 194 Tobacco Workers' International Union, and has been a union man for five years. It was necessary for the federation to amend its by-laws to elect Williams, who was chosen by the Negro delegates. He is a member of an all-Negro union.

AUG 22 1942

This is the first time a Negro has been chosen a vice president of any southern State federation with the exception of the Alabama Federation, which had one Negro vice president.

As vice president Williams will be an ex-officio member of the executive board of the North Carolina Federation.

35i-1942

OHIO

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

1,000 Aluminum Workers Return; Strike Settled

OCT 1 - 1942

CLEVELAND—(ANP) — A strike of 1,000 Negro workers at the huge key plant of the Aluminum Corporation of America was settled here Wednesday just in time to avert the shutdown of the biggest airplane manufacturing plants in the country. With the prospect of dependent industries being forced to close within another 24 hours, the war department was issuing a work of fight order.

The strike was caused by a number of complaints arising chiefly out of the alleged discriminatory practices at Alcoa which has one of the worst labor records in the nation.

The company has refused to hire Negro women, failed to upgrade Negro employes, relegated colored workers to the hottest and dirtiest work in the plant, and has refused to negotiate a satisfactory wage agreement, say employes, who add that the company has moved so slowly in acting on complaints filed that it amounts to virtual disregard.

Judge William Hastie was dispatched here from Washington by the war department and is credited with ending the strike along with the Washington and Cleveland Urban leagues, which also helped.

The workers also voiced dissatisfaction with leadership in their union. The national president of the Miners and Smelters union, (CIO) Robinson Reid flew out and aided. The labor trouble with John L. Lewis also contributed to the unrest. All grievances and complaints are to be adjudicated.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

Army Sends Dr. Hastie to Settle Strike

OCT 3 - 1942

CLEVELAND (ANP)—Credit for settlement of a three-day strike among the thousand colored employees of the Aluminum Corporation of America's key plant on Monday went largely to Dr. William Hastie, civilian aide to the Secretary of War, sent here for that purpose.

Assisting Dr. Hastie in the successful negotiations were officials of the Cleveland and Washington Urban Leagues.

Advancement Restricted

Basis of the strike, according to reports, was general dissatisfaction among the workers over the failure of plant officials to upgrade them on the same basis as white workmen.

Five leading aircraft plants are said to be dependent on the products of the Alcoa plant, and the tie-up which would have resulted from continuation of the strike here, it is believed, would have forced some of the dependent plants to shut down within twenty-four hours.

War Manpower Commission field representatives have given considerable publicity to the number of colored employees at the plant, but the dissatisfaction over treatment and prospects for promotions, reflected in the strike, was less generally known to the public.

851-1942 OREGON

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

THREAT OF NEGRO STRIKE AT KAISER SHIPYARD EASED

OCT 20 1942

Portland, Ore., Oct. 19 (AP).—A spokesman for 100 New York Negroes imported to work at the Henry J. Kaiser shipyard in Vancouver, Wash., said he believed a strike threatened for today has been averted.

The spokesman, Walter Scantlebury, said Jack Murray, Kaiser company personnel manager, agreed to give eight Negroes jobs as journeymen welders and to permit others to have vocational training. They have been working as common laborers, altho a number contended they were trained for skilled work.

OCT 20 1942

Meanwhile the controversy over admitting the Negroes to union membership continued, and a Portland minister made it the subject of his sermon Sunday. The Rev. Richard M. Steiner of the Unitarian church told his congregation "the continued disbarment of Negroes from the shipyard union is a libel on human nature . . . and democratic institutions."

PULLMAN PORTERS AND MAIDS PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

351-1942
New York Age
New York, N. Y.

J. T. Reid Resigns As President Of Pullman Porters Association

AUG 29 1942

AUG 29 1942

By PAUL E. X. BROWN

CHICAGO, Ill.—Condemning the poll tax Congressmen of the South and the Nazi practices here in America of Governor Talmadge of Georgia and Alabama's Governor Dixon, executives of the Pullman Porters and Maids Protective Association closed here this weekend their eighth annual convention.

This annual gathering of Pullman porters was marked by a stormy session that bestirred the most conservatives of the delegates. The whole convention was thrown into confusion at the outset when the national president, J. T. Reid, who had served the group for five years, in his annual address unleashed the full power of his pen in unbridled fury on the executive board, and having set the stage, without warning demanded that the body accept his resignation as of now, and refused to accept the chair for the conduct of the annual convention business.

President Reid in his address pointed out that during his tenure of office he had been criticized, but that this represented a type of freedom existing in the organization. Further, he pointed out that this organization must not yield to force, but must strike back harder in the days to come. "We are fighting in self-defense and for self-preservation," he said.

Even though President Reid told of the work of his administration and demanded that the group be ever alert to protect the interest of the organization during the days ahead, he failed to offer a workable program for offensive protection.

AUG 29 1942

Perhaps, the best program for future protection of his group of workers and the means whereby this labor organization can be saved, was offered by George F. McCray, labor editor of the Chicago Defender and the Associated Negro Press, who told these workers frankly and without reserve what they could expect in the future labor movement and that as an independent they had reached the end of their ability to be an activating force in the whole labor world. He stressed the importance of the organization considering their aligning themselves with the more important aggressive forces in the labor movement and that now was the time to take their place in the sun. He decried the dormant, inactive, listless leadership of the Protective Association in all the problems confronting tthe railroad labor field.

35i-1942

RAILWAY MAIL CLERKS ASSOCIATION

Source:
Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.
Nov. 24, 1942

RAILWAY CLERKS CRACK JIM CROW

Nov. 24, 1942

It was a simple membership inauguration ceremony at the Pennsylvania Hotel meeting of the New York City Branch of the Railway Mail Clerks Association, Sunday afternoon, but it was historic for the six initiated men were Negroes.

35

The action was all the more significant as it came in defiance of the "Caucasian clause" in the national constitution of the union and on the eve of the hearings by the Fair Employment Practice Committee at Washington on employment discrimination in the railroad industry.

"This is an historic moment in the annals of the Railway Mail Association," said President W. R. Mitiguy of the local as he extended a hand of fellowship to the six Negro mail clerks.

"In a small way, we have done our part. We have taken one step towards the goal of banishing discrimination forever from the the earth." Nov. 24, 1942

SIX TAKE OATH

The Negroes who took the oath of membership in the AFL affiliate, are William M. Clemmens, Joseph B. Greene, William R. Dash, Owen Thompson, G. William Delmar and Wallace Dade.

Action by the union to inaugurate the Negro members came as a result of its request for an opinion from Industrial Commissioner Frieda S. Miller on whether the RMA national constitution's Negro bar would infringe upon the constitution of the State of New York which prohibits such discrimination.

35

Attorney General John J. Bennett who handed down the ruling declared that the clause in the state's constitution simply means that "Jim Crow is dead in the labor movement of New York State." Nov. 24, 1942

The union submitted the question for interpretation when its national officers insisted upon application of the "Causasian clause."

Discrimination received another blow at the mail clerks' membership meeting when it voted to send telegrams to Senators of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Connecticut, demanding that they be on hand to vote for cloture to stop the filibuster on the Anti-Poll Tax Bill and insure passage of this win-the-war legislation. Nov. 24, 1942

35

The action of New York railway clerks may well have an influence at the hearings Dec. 7, 8 and 9 at Washington where the anti-Negro employment bars of most railway unions will come up for scrutiny.

Greenville, S. C. Observer
July 3, 1942

NATIONAL DISUNITY

The Taylor-Colquitt Labor Board hearing in Spartanburg has thus far produced several remarkable bits of information. The union organizers who brought the complaint against the company have freely admitted that they are attempting to organize negro workers at the plant into the CIO. CIO organizers admitted meeting with negro workers at a Negro schoolhouse and in the homes of the negroes.

The hearing is an extremely complicated affair. The race issue is present in every phase of it. This is the first time that white men have openly attempted to organize negroes in this section for political and social purposes since reconstruction days, and feeling has been running high in the Hub City over it.

In attempting to organize the negroes, the CIO representatives have encountered opposition and the Labor Board is seeking to establish that the company is responsible for that opposition. Among other things, the Board and the CIO organizers are seeking to prove that negroes were intimidated and frightened by agents of the company.

In putting its witnesses through their paces, the Board attorneys and the CIO organizers gave a startling demonstration of their own skill at intimidating and threatening negroes. On Tuesday one negro witness testified that a Labor Board attorney threatened to "Beat Hell out of him if he did not tell the truth," and testified that a CIO organizer repeated the same threat. The Board attorney admitted the statement and also admitted that the threat was made in the courthouse during a recess.

54

SC

All in all, this hearing, and the racial unrest and bad feeling that is being stirred up by imported agitators are sickening symptoms of the internal agitation that is being fanned into flame by certain ambitious organizations. That hearing and the class and race hatreds that are being exploited by it are perfect examples of how America can lose this war. This nation desperately needs unity in this tragic hour, and the men who are going about at night stirring up the negro population of this region are doing very little to create that unity. And the government agency which is seeking to give the radicalism of these agitators the force of law is making no appreciable contribution either.

351-1942
Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Work Unity To Be Tested

MAY 31 1942

UNDER PHIL MURRAY, the Steel Workers Organizing committee is a benevolent dictatorship in much the same way that all other organizing committees are dictatorships whether in packing, textiles farm equipment, or constructiin. The dissolution of these committees will place in the hands of several million workers a greater degree of democratic control over the selection of their officers and representatives, and over the direction of their affairs. At a time when world democracy is on the defensive, particularly in our own country, the reorganization of the SWOC as a self-governing union is highly desirable.

However, this increased power, which quiet rightfully will be placed in the hands of the rank and file will provide a severe test of the solidarity of Negro and white workers in steel.

ATTACKED PREJUDICE

After the re-birth of the labor movement around 1935 the SWOC was one of the first unions to boldly attack prejudice and extend full equality to Negro workers. Over a period of six years this organization has carried out a systematic program to build Negro-white unity and cooperation in the labor movement.

This policy was developed in numerous speeches, pamphlets, union papers, and concrete demonstrations. Pictures of Negro and white delegates together at various conventions and at various local unions have become a feature of CIO and SWOC publications.

NEGROES IN OFFICES

Moreover, Negroes were elected or appointed to positions as organizers, presidents and numerous minor union positions where they in many instances represented far more white workers than they did Negro. Most employers and a few Negroes found difficulty in adjusting themselves to the sudden change in the status of the Negro worker. Frankly irritated were many employers who found they had to bargain with a Negro over the wages they were to pay, the length of the work day, and what was to be considered good cause for firing a man.

This nondiscrimination policy was pretty fairly administered. Sub-regional directors and organizers, being responsible to Phil Murray or the CIO only, and thus free from the necessity to placate local prejudices in order to hold their positions, acted according to policy. Here and there they said, "Take it or leave it; the union will have no discrimination." Indeed, these representatives must become exxceptional men of this attitude is to prevail in the future.

MAY 31 1942

UNITY AND EDUCATION

The answer to the question raised above, depends upon how well the SWOC has educated its membership. How deep has the union in the half dozen years of its life been able to drive the ideal of Negro-white solidarity and interracial on cooperation?

Is this idea of interracial unity strong enough to withstand the dilution of union membership by the thousands of new southern and rural workers now moving into industry? However, is this unity strong enough to withstand the attacks of ambitious men who will seek and who now seek to rise to power through exploiting race prejudice? Finally, is it strong enough to turn back the constant attacks of our society as a whole?

MUST DO TWO THINGS

Frankly, I do believe that an affirmative answer can be given to these questions unless Negroes and all friends of a democratic labor movement in the SWOC make immediate contact with each other and do two things.

MAY 31 1942

The first is to work to keep out of office any man who cannot be trusted to follow CIO policy on interracial labor solidarity. The second is work for the establishment of a comprehensive and well financed educational program.

This educational program should be designed to stimulate in the several hundred thousand SWOC members a sympathetic interest in CIO policy. It should give them in addition some practical education in those political, social, and economic arts and sciences whose operation, now mysterious to most workers, directly control the lives of all workers.

351-1942
Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

UNION OUSTS 'CRACKER' WHO HATES NEGROES

APR 25 1942

Tennessee Miners Oppose Labor Jim Crow And KKK Terrorism

ROCKWOOD, Tenn— (ANP)—In what is believed to be the first action of its kind in the South, Local 579, International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter workers, had an anti-labor, non-union and Negro-bating employe of the Tennessee Products company discharged.

The man, whose name was Nichols, offered to pay $10 initiation fee and otherwise satisfy union demands. He had, however, not joined the union during the required period and had stated when asked to join, "I would not join a union and sit in the same hall with [illegible], nor be obligated by a colored vice-president."

APR 25 1942

This insult, hurled in the face of the 370 militant white and Negro members of local 579 who have struggled against great terror and opposition to build their union, got immediate results.

Both white and colored committee members voted unanimously to have Nichols fired, and the entire local union supported their demand. The grievance was taken up last week, and Nichols along with two others "went down the road."

Some Local 579 leaders remarked that "any further attempts by the Ku Klux Klan or other Negro-baiting Hitler elements to tear up the local union will be dealt with in the same way."

APR 25 1942

"We are fighting for colored and white alike," said W. H. Griever, president of Local 579, "and an injury to one is an injury to all. We will not allow any Hitler-like spirit in Rockwood." Local 579 has a membership about half white and half colored.

TENNESSEE

Prejudiced White Worker Fired By Southern Union

Pittsburgh, PA.
Pittsburgh Courier

ROCKWOOD, Tenn., April 23. (ANP)—In what was believed to be the first action of its kind in the South, Local 579, International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, had an anti-labor, non-union and Negro-baiting employe of the Tennessee Products company discharged. The man, whose name was Nichols, offered to pay $10 initiation fee and otherwise satisfy union demands. He had, however, not joined the union during the required period and had stated when asked to join, "I would not join a union and sit in the same hall with 'n—rs', nor be obligated by a colored vice-president."

This insult, hurled in the face of the 370 militant white and Negro members of local 579 who have struggled against great terror and opposition to build their union, got immediate results. Both white and colored committee members voted unanimously to have Nichols fired, and the entire local union supported their demand. The grievance was taken up last week and Nichols, along with two others, "went down the road."

"We are fighting for colored and white alike," said W. H. Griever, president of Local 579, "and an injury to one is an injury to all. We will not allow any Hitler-like spirit in Rockwood." Local 579 has a membership of about half white and half colored.

Tenn. Unions Aid Negroes In Jobs

Pittsburgh, PA.

To Drop Race Classifications on Government Work in Tennessee—Contractors Planning to Use More Construction Workers.

Pittsburgh Courier

COLUMBIA, Tenn., May 14 — Employment of a fair number of Negroes on the government's activiated carbon plant near here was assured here Thursday with the announcement by representatives of labor unions that men would be hired for the job regardless of race.

Oscar Willentz is in charge of the office for the rating of workers employed by American Federation of Labor building trades unions here.

Willentz announced the labor policy in a statement issued to newspapers and workers of this area of Middle Tennessee, in which he said that no discrimination of any nature would be shown in giving classifications for jobs.

Action of the union follows a protest made in Chattanooga about two months ago in which race leaders protested that colored workers were not being given a fair number of jobs in defense industries in the South.

600 GET JOBS AT CAMP

At the same time, State American Fedreation of Labor Union leaders, announced that several hundred colored workers had been employed at Camp Campbell, about 60 miles north of here, where the government is constructing one of its largest mechanized unit training centers.

AFL leaders predicted that the number of colored to be employed on the defense projects was increasing in proportion to the number of men that was being drafted.

"A colored man over the draft limit can do more construction work than the majority of the white men of the same age," one contractor reported. "Thus we are planning to use more and more colored men on construction jobs in the next few months."

Tenants Union Hits Negro Abuse

Daily Worker
N.Y., N.Y.

(Special to the Daily Worker)

ROCKWOOD, Tenn., Sept. 13.—Racial prejudice and Negro discrimination was dealt a staggering blow here when Local 579, International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers met with the Tennessee Products Co. and demanded that immediate steps be taken to curtail the abusive language being used by a foreman with regard to Negro workers.

At the meeting between the company and the union, Roy Hurst, chairman of the union committee, told the company that Negro workers were risking their lives for our country and that the union could not permit them to be insulted. The company agreed to step down on all foremen using insulting language toward the Negro workers.

"Only the fifth column in this country profits from prejudice against the Negro people," Hurst said. "We are all in the same boat fighting together against Hitler. We need unity."

351-1942

Negro Labor News

Houston, Texas

WORKERS MUST PAY $50 TO UNION FOR DEFENSE JOBS AT AUSTIN. AFL LEADER SAYS "DUES NOT TOO MUCH"

FEB 14 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Senator Lee O'Daniel, militant foe of labor racketeering, and author of the famous O'Daniel labor law, presented to the Senate, Monday, a petition from 73 citizens of Austin, Texas, who complained because they had not been allowed to work on the government magesium plant being erected at Austin because they ''did not belong to a carpenter's union or carpenter helper's union.''

O'Daniel informed the Senate the signers were not able to get jobs ''without paying tribute to some labor racketeer'' in the form of a $50 union fee.

The contract with the government bars non-union workers.

AFL Head Says Fee Reasonable

Senator O'Daniel's criticism was immediately answered by Harry W. Acreman,, secretary of the Texas Federation of Labor, who stated that there was nothing unusual about a labor contract on a government magnesium plant being constructed near Austin.

FEB 14 1942

Acreman said the Austin company, had in accordance with a long-established policy made an agreement with labor unions to furnish skilled workers on the job at a set rate of pay.

The erecting company has a contract with the Austin branch of the International Association of Carpenters and Joiners of America to furnish labor.

FEB 14 1942

Acreman contends that $50 is not too much to pay for a defense job, remarking ''There are in Austin a number of workers who are trying to get jobs on the plant. They object to paying a $50 membership fee to the union. Therefore, they are not permitted to work on the plant.''

The nearly 100 workers who signed the petition, said if given a chance to work they would buy $50.00 defense bonds to help the government.

Negro Labor News

Houston, Texas

WELDERS FORM OWN INDEPENDENT UNION AT MEET

FEB 14 1942

At the opening session of the welders convention here Monday, delegates from all parts of the country heatedly expressed dissatisfaction with the present card policy of the American Federation of Labor. The amalgamation of all welders into an autonomous union may come out of the convention which will hold a ten-day session.

Speakers at the afternoon session charged that the multiple card policy of the A. F. of L. affiliates, caused workers to be exploited by labor unions and bosses. The Houston convention grew out of the present quarrel which developed in Tacoma, Wash., between the boilermakers union and the welders.

''As I see it, it is just a plain case of officials of the various crafts profiteering by collecting dues every time the workers go on a new job where another union holds jurisdiction,'' R. A. Hardie, editor of Welders News and convention director of public relations, said.

Conferences are being held at the Lamar Hotel and may remain longer than 10 days, if necessary, officials said.

FEB 14 1942

oOo

Delegates from five independent welders unions Tuesday afternoon formed the United Brotherhood of Welders, Cutters and Helpers in America, repudiating the AF of L

TEXAS

craft unions.

The new brotherhood's first action was to send a telegram to Donald Nelson, war production chief, demanding that a representative be sent to Houston by Friday to confer with delegates.

R. A. Hardie, spokesman for the delegates, said that the welders had no dispute with the shipbuilding firms in Tacoma, Wash., during the recent strike.

''What we want government officials to do is to remedy the situation so that a worker can belong to the union of his choice,'' Mr. Hardie said.

FEB 14 1942

In the Tacoma case, 31 welders had been fired at the Seattle Shipbuilding Corporation because they would not pay union dues. More than 1,000 other welders struck in protest.

Negro Labor News

Houston, Texas

Supreme Court Rules Secondary Picketing Illegal. Carpenters' Union Loses Fight With Cafe Owner

APR 9 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The labor union movement was stripped of one of its most potent weapons in labor warfare when the United States Supreme Court upheld a Texas State Court injunction barring a carpenters union No. 213, and a painters union No. 130, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor of Houston, Texas, from picketing a local cafe. The decision was 5 to 4 vote of the court.

Justice Felix Frankfurter delivered the majority opinion in which Chief Justice Harlan Fiske Stone and Justices Owen J. Robert, James F Byrnes and Robert H. Jackson concurred.

APR 9 1942

The case in question affected the carpenters and painters unions and was ruled on by the state court to be "coercive to an individual in the lawful conduct of business and violation of the state anti-trust laws." The unions protested the injunction as a violation of their rights to communicate freely their position in a labor disagreement.

Justice Frankfurter said, "It is true that by peaceful picketing working men communicate their grievances. As a means of communicating the facts of labor dispute peaceful picketing may be a phase of the constitutional right of free utterance. But recognition of peaceful picketing as an exercise of free speech does not imply that the states must be without power to confine the sphere of communication to that directly related to the dispute. Restriction of picketing to the area of the industry within which a labor dispute arises leaves open to the disputants other traditional modes of communication.

APR 9 1942

"To deny the states the power to draw this line is to write into the constitution the notion that every instance of peaceful picketing—anywhere and under any circumstances

351-1942

TRANSPORT SERVICE EMPLOYEES

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Porters' Aide Asks Death Of Ten Cent Tip

WASHINGTON—John L. Yancey, secretary-treasurer of the United Transport Service Employees of America, asked the Association of American Railroads to abolish the fixed charge for carrying baggage last Wednesday.

Yancey declared that the charge was "highly unpopular among passengers."

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

UNANIMOUSLY VOTE TO JOIN INTERNATIONAL

Transit Group Launches New Program During Annual Conference

MAY 30 1942

CINCINNATI, Ohio. — Setting its goal for 25,000 members by 1944, the third biennial convention of the United Transport Service Employees of America came to a dramatic close here as the assembled delegates of red caps, dining car employees and train porters voted unanimously to accept the invitation of the Congress of Industrial Organizations to affiliate as an international union.

Realizing its great responsibility to the welfare of its growing membership, the convention adopted plans to institute an insurance department within the organization and a program of liberalization of the Railway Retirement act which would destroy existing barriers against red caps and station porters relative to their eligibility for full retirement benefits.

President Willard S. Townsend and Secretary-Treasurer John L. Yances were unanimously reelected to their respective offices. New vice presidents elected wer John Hoskins of Oakland, Calif., and J. P. Covington of Washington, D. C., representing the Dining Car Employees division. Cleveland, Ohio, was selected as the next convention site.

The convention went on record condemning the attack of Westbrook Pegler against the Negro press and the trade union movement and voted the institution of a boycott against all Scripps-Howard newspapers and others using Pegler's column. It also called for the passage of stringent federal legislation embodying the principles of the President's Executive Order which created the Fair Employment Practices committee. It also voted to support the nation's war effort and set as its goal for 1942, the purchase of $250,000 worth of war bonds by the members, and commended the Negro and the liberal press for their fair handling of labor news stories.

The convention opened Sunday with a mass meeting at the downtown Emery auditorium with Mayor James Garfield Stewart welcoming the many delegates and the Women's Auxiliary representatives to the city. Presenting the issue on "The Negro, the War and the Future of American Democracy," the mass meeting heard Earl B. Dickerson, member of the President's Fair Employment Practices committee; Alfred Baker Lewis, member of the board of directors of the N.A.A.C.P., and Ted F. Silvey, secretary-treasurer of the Ohio CIO Industrial council in unanimity declare that prejudice and racial discrimination in industry, government and every other avenue must be wiped from the American scene if America is to survive as the citadel of world democracy.

UTSEA President Willard S. Townsend set the keynote to the mass meeting when he declared that "We of the UTSEA are here to lend every effort towards winning the war. But in this fight, surely one or two things must be sacrificed by those in the control of America. Either they must give up their freedom or they must sacrifice their prejudice, and if they think more of their prejudice than freedom, then surely we will lose our freedom."

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro Red Caps Denounce Pegler

(Special to the Daily Worker)

CINCINNATI, May 28—The United Transport Service Employes of America—composed mainly of Negro Red Caps, train porters and dining car employes—in resolutions at its convention here has placed itself 100 per cent behind the war effort and unanimously voted to accept the CIO invitation to affiliate.

Assembled at its Third Bienniel Convention, the union also tore into Westbrook Pegler and voted a nationwide boycott against Scripps-Howard papers which carry the column of this anti-Negro, anti-Labor poison-pen defeatist.

Delegates set in motion a drive to achieve 25,000 membership by 1944; pledged to purchase $250,000 in war bonds for this year; ased strong federal legislation to enforce the principles of President Roosevelt's order which created the Fair Employment Practice Committee; and called for liberalization of the Railway Retirement Act to eliminate present barriers against Red Caps and station employes.

The UTSE, predominantly of Negro workers, is one of the most influential unions among the Negro people. President Willard S. Townsend and Secretary-treasurer John L. Yancey were unanimously reelected to their posts. New vice-presidents elected were John Hoskins of Oakland, Calif.. J. P. Covington of Washington, D. C., who represents the Dinning Car Employes division.

President Townsend set the tone for the convention with the following remarks:

"We of the UTSEA are here to lend every effort towards winning the war. But in this fight, surely one of two things must be sacrificed by those in control of America. Either they must give up their freedom or they must sacrifice their prejudice, and if they think more of their prejudice than freedom, then surely we will lose our freedom."

Among the speakers at the opening mass meeting of the convention was Earl B. Dickerson, member of the President's Fair Employment Practice Committee.

351-1942
Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, PA.

UNITED AUTOMOBILE WORKERS

Strong Words

LABOR AND THE NEGRO DEMAND EQUALITY OF SACRIFICES—PREJUDICES MUST BE RATIONED

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

I AM attending the convention of the United Automobile Workers this week and the entire convention is charged with dynamite. The smouldering resentment which labor has for sometime felt about the "inequality of sacrifice" in the war program on the part of industry created pandemonium when introduced on the floor. Walter P. Reuther, a member of the International board got off a piece of oratory which I thought it would pass on to you because it has implications for the brother in black.

Said Reuther:

Some time ago when we put through our "Victory Through Equality of Sacrifice" program we were correct in doing so at that time, and the Auto Workers and the CIO can go to the world with clean hands. We demonstrated we were willing as a section of this great democracy to lead the way in working out an overall economic program that would do the thing the President called for in his seven-point program. We said, and we say again today, the only way you can mobilize a democracy completely in terms of material and human resources is in terms of a program based upon [illegible] through equality of sacrifice, and we said to the nation that we workers in the auto industry were prepared and are prepared to make our sacrifice providing the other groups will match those sacrifices in proportion to their ability to sacrifice . . . Well, we have been asked to sweat and work, and we are willing to sweat and work and sacrifice, anything to win the war, but I'll be damned if we are going to work and sweat and sacrifice to make the profits of corporations bigger in America.

Mr. Cayton

STRONG WORDS

Well, these are pretty strong words, but anyone familiar with the labor movement knows that that's just about the way the American workman feels today. He wants to defeat Hitler and is willing to do anything to accomplish this end, but he just as emphatically does not want to raise another "bumper crop of war millionaires."

I DON'T know if you see the connection between this and the Negro problem, but it seems pretty apparent to me. The Negro is making heroic sacrifices in this war just like other people. The first to be killed in Pearl Harbor was a Negro. Thousands of Negroes are sacrificing by fighting and dying; by buying war bonds; and as workers, contributing in their work efforts and, through pay deduction, to war charities.

SEEKS ONLY EQUALITY

Sure the Negro is making plenty of sacrifices and is willing to make more. **All the Negro wants is that there be an equality of sacrifice. It isn't unpatriotic to ask for this —not in a democracy that is fighting most of the rest of the world for the principle of democracy.**

AND just what is equality of sacrifice? If Negroes are fighting and dying for this country, then it seems to me that people in this country should be willing to sacrifice at least for the duration, if nothing more—their senseless, brutal prejudice. If Negroes are willing to join the armed forces to fight for a democracy, which in many instances does not include them, then white people should make some sort of sacrifice and treat them as human beings and not make the prerequisite to their service to the country a subordinate, degraded status.

MUST RATION PREJUDICES

This demand for equal sacrifice is something which Negroes and organized labor are [illegible] raising. This country is facing a terrific struggle and heretofore our victories have been few and our defeats many. Before we win the war many more people will have to sacrifice more than they have. Our sacrifices which will have to be made along with other non-essentials, is the luxury of racial prejudice. Like rubber, we will have to ration it for the duration.

AUG 15 1942

351

351-1942

UNITED AUTOMOBILE WORKERS

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

Negroes Hired, Strike Ties Up War Factory

By the Associated Press

Detroit, June 18.—Protesting the employment of eight Negroes to operate machines formerly used by white workers, several thousand day shift employes, members of the United Automobile Workers (C. I. O.), stopped work today at the Hudson Naval Ordnance Arsenal.

JUN 19 1942

Immediately, R. J. Thomas, U. A. W.-C. I. O. president, denounced the stoppage as a "flagrant violation" of the union constitution and ordered the workers to return to their jobs, "at once" or face expulsion.

At the same time, Secretary of Navy Knox, in a telegram to Capt. A. S. Wotherspoon, in charge of the plant, declared that the work stoppage "warrants assumption that the men are not only disloyal and subject to immediate dismissal, but may be prevented from obtaining employment in other plants engaged in war production."

"Immediate resumption of work," Knox said, "is therefore imperative."

The plant, operated by the Hudson Motor Car Co., is owned by the Government, which bears all operating costs. It is engaged solely in vital war production and has been designated as a military reservation.

Captain Wotherspoon said the stoppage halted all day production and that only a part of the afternoon shift reported for work.

"The plant management was carrying out the instructions of President Roosevelt in avoiding racial discrimination by advancing Negro workers to production jobs," he said.

Thomas was in Washington at the time of the walkout. He said the walkout "amounts to sabotage of our war effort and plays into the hands of the enemies of our Nation."

1000 Strikers Stop Pittsburgh War Plant

Pittsburgh, June 18 (AP).—Approximately 1000 C. I. O. workers at the two Homewood plants of the Pittsburgh Equitable Meter Co., which is producing war materials, went on strike today as the result of a deadlock in contract negotiations.

A company spokesman said demands included a wage increase based on increased living costs and equal wages for women performing men's work.

JUN 19 1942

Attorney Harry Alan Sherman, business agent for local 615, C. I. O.-United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, said the union's basis for the wage increase was a Government figure showing a 12½ per cent advance in living costs. He claimed the company submitted a figure of 8.2 per cent, but did not agree to grant a wage increase of that amount.

The expired contract provided a basic pay rate of 72½ cents an hour for men and 60 cents an hour for women. Sherman said the average hourly rate was $1.01.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Output Now Again 100% At War Plant

Detroit, June 19. (AP)—Production was restored to normal at the Hudson Naval Ordnance Arsenal today, a Navy spokesman said, soon after United Automobile Workers-CIO officials appealed to day-shift workers to end a stoppage attributed to the employment of Negroes on machines white men formerly operated.

"Production is 100 per cent," Capt. A. S. Wotherspoon, chief inspector of ordnance at the arsenal, said after UAW officials had ended another brief stoppage affecting one building.

Richard T. Frankensteen, UAW regional director and one of the officials who appealed to the men to resume their jobs, said employes complied at once except in one building. This group, about 100 men, went back to their machines after further discussion, he said.

Informed of today's walkout, R. J. Thomas, UAW-CIO president, had said:

"If these men don't get to work, I will pull the charter of the local union and reorganize it."

Fall River, Mass., June 19 (AP).—Striking changers and loomfixers at the Arkwright Corporation, who were unmoved earlier in the week by a Government order to replace them with other workers, voted unanimously today to return to their looms after hearing reports of a conference between union representatives and the War Labor Board.

The 27 changers and 98 loomfixers had been on strike for a $3.03 pay raise for the changers to bring their weekly wage to $35. They voted to return next Monday after receiving assurance that the WLB would look into their difficulties and make a decision in the case.

Chairman William H. Davis of the War Labor Board, issued an order earlier in the week to replace the strikers with other workers—the first such action during the present war—but none could be found to perform the highly technical tasks.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

ALA. LILY-WHITE POLICY HIT BY U.A.W. SPEAKER

Claims Employers Ignore Roosevelt Edict On Discrimination

JUL 4 1942

DECATUR, Ill. — Frank Evans, executive board member of the United Automobile Workers union told 300 workers in a meeting at the U.A.W. hall last week that Decatur defense employers will have to account to the federal government unless they halt discrimination against Negroes.

Evans charged that local employers have "ignored President Roosevelt's executive order against discrimination."

He declared that certain local factories have repeatedly refused to hire Negro workers when jobs were open, and we are now serving notice on these employers that this practice will be stopped and they will comply with the orders issued by the President of the United States, guaranteeing equal work opportunity to the minority groups.

The meeting was called by local Negro ministers to study methods of obtaining war plant employment for Decatur colored workers.

JUL 4 1942

Dr. F. C. Rogan, who acted as chairman of the meeting, announced the recent formation of a Decatur fair labor practice committee to promote the interess oft Negro workers.

Richard B. Calhoun of he U. S. Employment Service office, appeared as the principal speaker and urged the colored people to register with the office so that they may be placed as rapidly as possible.

JUL 4 1942

35i-1942
Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Elected To $4,500 UAW Post At Ford Car Plant

MAY 23 1942

DETROIT. — (ANP) — A new page was turned last week in the Motor City's labor history when Shelton Tappes, chairman of foundry units of Ford UAW, Local 600, and the only colored candidate for a major office, was elected by a majority of more than 12,000 votes over his closest white opponent as recording secretary of the large Ford local.

Tappes received the highest number of votes of any of the candidates in the race for various offices, which can be termed as a sweeping victory because most of those who voted for him were white.

His nearest white opponent for the recording secretaryship received only 9,840 votes, while Tappes polled more than 21,000 votes.

This secretary position carries a salary of $4,500 per year. The new recording secretary is chairman of the production foundry unit at the Rouge. He is also secretary of the general council and of the plant bargaining committee. Tappes is 31 years of age. He has been employed at the Ford River Rouge plant only six years. He is married and has one child.

MAY 23 1942

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Elected To $4,500 Union Job

MAY 22 1942

Negro Defeats White Opponents By 12,000 Votes

DETROIT. — (ANP) — A new page was turned last week in the Motor City's labor history when Shelton Tappes, chairman of Foundery units of Ford UAW, Local 600, and the only colored candidate for a major office, was elected by a majority of more than 12,000 votes over his closest white opponent as recording secretary of the large Ford local.

Tappes received the highest number of votes of any of the candidates in the race for various offices, which can be termed as a sweeping victory because most of those who voted for him were white.

MAY 22 1942

His nearest white opponent for the recording secretaryship received only 9,480 votes, while Tappes polled more than 21,000 votes.

This secretary position carries a salary of $4,500 per. year. The new recording secretary is chairman of the production foundery unit at the Rouge. He is also secretary of the general council and of the plant bargaining committee.

Tappes is 31 years of age. He has been employed at the Ford River Rouge plant only six years. He is married and has one child.

U.A.W.
Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

WAR PLANT SHUT IN RACIAL STRIFE

350 Men Quit, Protesting 20 Negro Workers.

JUN 3 - 1942

Detroit, Mich., June 2 [Special].—Refusal of several hundred members of a United Automobile Workers CIO local to work with 20 Negroes sent into the plant at the request of international union officials led to the closing at noon today of the Chrysler corporation's Dodge truck plant, employing 3,000 men and busy on war work.

From 400 to 500 white employés of the plant held a protest meeting during their lunch hour in front of the plant manager's office demanding removal of the Negroes from the factory. At the end of the lunch period about 350 men refused to return to their machines and the company, unable to continue production, announced a shut down for the rest of the day.

Will Reopen When Men Return.

"We will open up tomorrow morning if men are there to do the work," a company spokesman said tonight.

Morris Field, assistant director of the Chrysler department of the international UAW-CIO, said he has sent representatives to protesting members of the local urging that no further protest be made gaainst the presence of the Negroes.

"The local will have to accept the Negroes," Field asserted. 'The UAW and CIO policy calls for equal treatment of Negroes, and so does the American constitution. The union will abide by that policy."

JUN 3 - 1942

Negroes Entitled to Transfers.

The 20 Negroes were formerly employed at the Dodge Motor plant and were entitled to transfer to the truck plant by seniority under the transfer program worked out last fall for transferring workers from nondefense to defense jobs, J. Lawrence Duncan, local representative of the Negro employment branch of the War Production board, said.

Duncan said the chief steward for the union in the motor plant called the attention of the company to the transfer rights of these Negroes on the basis of their seniority and that Robert W. Condor, labor relations director for Chrysler, ordered the transfer.

The 20 Negroes showed up at the truck plant this morning and worked until noon while a buzz of discontent mounted among many of their white union co-workers. A demonstration against the Negroes took place inside the plant prior to the outdoor protest meeting, it was said. Threats were made by workers to throw the Negroes out of the factory, but fighting was averted.

STRIKE SHUTS WAR PLANT

Tacoma, Wash., June 2 (AP).—More than 1,000 workers at the St. Paul and Tacoma lumber plant here and at three of its logging camps walked out today on strike, closing the plant, which was working on defense contracts.

JUN 3 - 1942

The strike was called by the CIO International Woodworkers of America. Freeman L. Cochran, secretary, said the union demanded a wage increase of $1 a day and vacations with pay. He said conferences on wages began in September, when the union asked an increase of $1.20 a day. The demand later was reduced to $1. Plant officials made no immediate comment.

The new strike followed the return to work of more than 2,000 door and plywood workers at six factories here. They struck Thursday but returned after agreeing to submit the controversy to arbitration.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

UAW-CIO CONVENTION ADOPTS COURIER 'DOUBLE V' PROGRAM

351

By **HORACE CAYTON**
(Labor Editor)

CHICAGO, Aug. 13—The United Auto Workers, CIO — the largest body of organized workers in the world — held its seventh annual convention here last week, with approximately 75 Negro delegates among the nearly 1800 in attendance.

Highlighting the convention activities were the resolutions endorsing The Pittsburgh Courier's "Double V" campaign and the strong condemnation of racial discrimination.

The latter resolution, worded in exceptionally strong language, was passed at the insistence of both white and colored rank and file convention delegates. It urged Congress to give FEPC "enforcing powers;" asked for a probe of Klan activities; instructed the union to integrate Negro women into industry; sought integration of Negro workers in plants where none are employed; called upon responsible heads in the government to establish mixed regiments in the Army and cited the UAW Constitution which reads in part: "To unite in one organization regardless of race, creed, color, political affiliation or nationality, all employees under the jurisdiction of the International Union."

ISSUES DRAW FIRE

This union, which met here last week, is the youngest, largest, roudiest and most democratic union in the country. It came dangerously close to kicking over all traces, as several points came out in direct opposition to the careful plans of the union administration. Nothing is sacred to those boys in the automobile industry, and the question of rank and file control time and again upset convention deliberations.

The officers of the union shared to an extent the dissatisfaction of the rank and file delegates as to the equality of sacrificing principle to voluntarily make a pledge of "no strike" for the duration.

They did not want the union to go as far as it did in challenging the A. F. of L. and company unions, who still receive premium pay for overtime and Sunday work. Other issues which the administration lost to the delegates who could not be ruled and in some cases could not even be controlled, were those pertaining to the amount of wage increases for national officers and an increase in dues to build up a post-war fund.

DELEGATES FAIL TO ELECT BOARD MEMBER

Negro delegates, early in the convention, started working to elect candidates of their own choice in their respective districts.

They [illegible] began work towards two major objectives—the election of a Negro board member and the introduction of a resolution on the Negro question "with teeth." The resolution sought to cope with the numerous wildcat strikes in plants upon the introduction of Negroes in the war production program.

Walter Hardin, veteran organizer and chairman of the Interracial committee of the International, was favored as a strong candidate when the convention opened. He had the personal backing of the international president, R. J. Thomas. Hardin, it was reported, favored the introduction of a constitution change which would make a position for a Negro, "board member-at-large." This resolution was not reported out of committee and Hardin's chances faded.

SHEFFIELD BEATEN IN LAST-MINUTE SHIFT

In a caucus of the Negro delegates called shortly after the convention began, it was agreed to try and elect a Negro from one of the regional offices without attempting to change the constitution.

Oscar Noble of the Pontiac local, young international representative now attached to the Ford plant, was chosen as the delegate to run from his district. With a change in regional lines which affected the Ford plant from which Noble had expected much of his strength, it soon became apparent that he couldn't win.

Most of the delegates then met again, and [illegible] was decided that Horace Sheffield should run from the Ford district. In spite of a hasty, last-minute campaign, Sheffield was defeated for office and no Negro was elected from the convention to the international board.

STRONG RESOLUTION PASSED BY DELEGATES

Delegates were successful in obtaining a strong resolution on the Negro problem. Seven or eight resolutions were presented to the committee, which voted to present the convention with one which took a "middle-of-the-road" position on the problem of integrating Negroes into the union.

It was here that Sheffield made a stirring speech to the convention, asking them to take a more forceful stand. Said he:

"In all previous conventions, we have passed these beautiful resolutions stating we are opposed to discrimination against the Negro race. However, we have now reached a juncture in American life where Negroes are no longer going to receive just membership only in a union or in the American way of life.

"We have reached the point where we, too, are human and want a change of equitable participation in the affairs and economic fruits of American life. We want full integration into this Union."

Sheffield's speech was wildly applauded. The "middle-of-the-road" resolution was overwhelmingly voted down and referred back to the committee. The more powerful resolution, referred to above, was then brought in and immediately adopted.

AUG 15 1942

351-1942 UNITED, ELECTRICAL, RADIO AND MACHINE WORKERS

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

CIO Electric Union Wins Jobs for Negroes in Many War Industries

MAR 16 1942

By George Morris

(This is the fifth of a series on experiences with joint management-labor war production committes.)

Employment of Negroes for war production, advanced in recent months according to last week's report of the President's Fair Employment Practice Committee, has received much impetus where joint management-labor production committees function.

Many locals of the United, Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, CIO, pioneers in advancing the joint plant committees for months, have already proven how effective such committees could be in extending labor supply—and obtaining it from the ranks of black and white.

This is all the more significant, as the union is in industries which for many years have maintained a Negro exclusion policy.

A survey of U. E. locals and interviews with leaders, shows how the union has been gradually breaking through this bar.

In some cases the actual numbers involved are small, but very important in relation to the background.

MAR 16 1942

60 NEGROES HIRED

The hiring of 60 Negroes by the Ford Instrument Co. of Long Island City is almost an historic incident. It comes after a long fight that has been waged by the union and organizations such as the National Negro Congress.

"Yes," said President James McLeish of District 4, U. E., "they have been hired at the regular 60-cent hiring rate and will be scaled upward five cents after four months, and on up, in accordance with our contract."

The Ford Instrument Co., now employing some 4,000 workers on all sorts of important equipment for guns and Navy craft, has always recited the same tune when confronted by union arguments or delegations about its need of only skilled labor. Negroes don't happen to be skilled, and, anyway, if the company would hire them the "workers would object." This threadbare story has been met everywhere. **So has its companion, the description by a company official of the fine Negro cook he has had in his home for 20 years, as evidence that the company does not discriminate.** This story, cook and all, was once actually delivered by the head of Sperry Gyroscope, which is associated with Ford Instrument, to a committee of the Negro Congress.

UNION PRESSES ISSUE

Now the story is so thin it had to be scrapped. The Ford Instrument Local of the UE adopted a resolution demanding that the company hire Negroes. In face of mass hiring of inexperienced workers, the argument about skilled labor fell.

McLeish said the union is pressing the issue in every shop, sending Negroes in response to calls for workers and is determined to fight every manifestation of discrimination. As a consequence, the number of Negroes is growing in many New Jersey shops. He said that about 200 are now employed in shops of Edison Industries, Inc. Solar Manufacturing of Newark hired about 25 since Pearl Harbor. At Bayonne, cooperating with the local Fair Employment Practice Committee, the union has succeeded in placing a considerable number of Negroes for the first time.

All the stories about white workers objecting to Negroes have been exposed as just so much nonsense, he said, as evidenced by the good relations that exist everywhere.

Just how the UE is chopping away the wall of discrimination bit by bit, was described by leaders and members of Queens Local 1227 of the UE.

MAR 16 1942

S. M. Morey, owner of the Morey Machine Co., now busy on war work with some 400 workers on its payroll, delivered the standard excuse time and again when the union and the shop committee demanded he hire Negroes. He told of the Negro servant he has in his home to allay all doubts. When Pearl Harbor days came and a joint plant production committee was formed, the problem of getting more workers, especially skilled workers, for a new shift, came up. The union's representatives on the committee again proposed that the company hire Negroes. Morey representatives tried the old one about the "workers objecting" and promised to start hiring Negroes as soon as separate locker rooms are provided for them. The union pointed out how time and again the shop was represented at conferences in support of full Negro rights and how repeatedly the workers of the shop have called for equal employment opportunities for Negroes. The company was disarmed.

CRACKING JIM CROW

Hal Simon, member of the shop committee in Morey's, with Nick Kazakeras, another member present, described to me how six Negro workers have already been placed on production.

"We have a plane hand and shape hand, a learner in the tool room, a man in the crating department and two Negro maintenance men, who have been shifted to production," Simon said. "The skilled men get the regular rate of 90 cents as the others. They have received the finest cooperation from the other workers."

Local 1227 is carrying on an extensive educational campaign among its members on the importance of fighting for equal rights for Negroes. Shop after shop meeting voted for a resolution approving the policy and called upon the respective employers to hire Negroes.

Here is the story Business Agent Sidney Gilbert tells in respect to Par-Metal Products, employer of some 70 workers in sheet metal wares. The contract provides for hiring through the union. Asked for a helper, Gilbert sent a Negro who was experienced in the line. The hiring boss refused to take him. When Gilbert called up Mr. Parmet, the owner, the latter replied:

"I'll tell you, we are going to need a porter next week, send him over as a porter."

"If you need a porter," Gilbert replied, "notify the union in the usual way. We sent this man as a helper. You have hired white workers with less experience than he has."

WIN JOB FIGHT

He added that if the Negro was not hired, the union will make an issue of the case as a contract violation. The employer asked to consult his works manager. The Negro was hired.

"He has passed his trial period and is getting along well," Gilbert said.

MAR 16 1942

Here's another story on General Ark Lighting, maker of powerful anti-aircraft searchlights. Negroes recently sent by the union were turned down. A joint production committee was formed there late this week. At the first meeting the issue of extending a shift came up to raise production and the union immediately pointed out that it was time to begin hiring Negroes. The inevitable excuse came from the company. The union came back with the information that the workers had voted at a shop meeting to demand hiring of Negroes. Thus stripped of an excuse the company agreed to hire Negroes.

The issue was also fought out at the Bijur Lubrication Co. The union sent a Negro girl in response to a company request for a worker. She was turned down as "inexperienced." Business Agent Jim Gary pointed out that inexperienced white girls were hired by the company before and threatened to fight the case out. The company changed its mind.

~~634-1942~~

Birmingham Post
Birmingham, Alabama

The Only Way

Nov. 14, 1942

The public generally will applaud the United Mine Workers' decision to return to their jobs in the Edgewater mine and to work out their differences with the management without further interruption of production. That is as it should be.

With Americans fighting and dying on both sides of the world, life as usual, business as usual and strikes as usual on the home front are luxuries out for the duration. At such a time no dispute or grievance justifies the stoppage of work which contributes even remotely to the war effort.

The sensible way to settle differences between employer and employe at any time is around the conference table. Today, regardless of the nature of such differences, that is the only way and the stoppage of war production is to give aid and comfort to the enemy just the same as would the blast of a bomb planted by one of his own agents.

Birmingham Post
Birmingham, Alabama

WORK IS RESUMED AT EDGEWATER MINE

Nov. 14, 1942

Operations at the Edgewater coal mine of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Co. have been resumed following a brief stoppage due to a walkout by miners.

The miners returned to their jobs last night and any unsettled grievances will be taken up in line with the joint contract between the union and company, William Mitch, district president of the United Mine Workers of America, said.

Birmingham Post
Birmingham, Alabama

The Post Box

News and Views from the Editor's Mail Box

Dec. 12, 1942

Birmingham Post 12/13/1942

Post Is 'Unfair,' Says Mine Workers' President

We have refrained from attempting to answer the several editorials appearing in The Post, all designed to discredit the United Mine Workers of America and John L. Lewis, as president. The reason we refrained was, first, because we recognize that you control the paper. Second, we recognize that the drastic change in the attitude of The Post, in fact all the Scripps-Howard papers, relating to the right of the workers, has become notoriously Tory.

I refer to an editorial appearing in The Post on Dec. 4, about the price of coal and why it is going up, also emphasizing that the miners are only working 35 hours per week.

The miners have agreed to work six days per week, and in the West they are even working seven days per week, and of course, our contracts provide for time and a half for overtime over five days, and our so-called seven-hour day actually means more than eight hours per day.

The Wage and Hours Division handled a case recently, through the Federal Court here, on the ore mine situation, and it was held that the day's work begins when the man enters the mine, and continued until he comes out, hence the miners are under that kind of an eight-hour basis.

There was a recent controversy at the Edgewater mine, of the T. C. I., where the miners entered the mine at 6:30 in the morning, the company holding the men did not work seven hours at their working places, which were miles under the ground. However, they went down into the mine in sufficient time to walk quite some distance to catch the mantrip which started at 6:30 at a point within the mine, and the regular starting time was 7 o'clock, but the company held that it required more than 30 minutes to get the men to and from their working places on the mantrip. The result was that a change was made, adding to the already more than eight hours per day, nine minutes in the morning and nine minutes in the evening. Taking the whole of the United States, the miners are actually in the mines from eight to nine hours a day.

We resent your editorial because it is using the war period to further the hysteria to take away labor gains made in the past.

Birmingham-Post

Labor is not receiving a square deal, in fact, wage schedules have been frozen for some time, and the cost of living—well, you know what the cost of living has done, and if you do not, perhaps your wife does. Anyway, we know that the cost of living has advanced to the point where wages mean but very little to the workers.

Yes, the war is on; we know that. We know that the emissaries of corporate greed in this country would gladly put in the totalitarian program against labor and make us fight for love of country, the same as they do in Europe, but there seems to be some of the "cooler heads" who do not fall for this propaganda that is being put out by the press and over the radio.

Labor wants the democratic processes maintained. We know, and know definitely, that if any of our rights are taken away during the war period, they never will be restored. We hold there is no justification for all this propaganda against labor.

The miners and workers, generally, in this section are just as intelligent as you will find in the average section of the country, and Mr. Editor, they do not believe in a program of continuing to feed a dog that, everytime they go to feed him, he will bite them; therefore, we hope that you will realize that labor has its side as does the employer. However, our side has received but scant consideration in your paper, in fact, it has been the reverse.

WILLIAM MITCH,
President Dist. No. 20.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala

THIS MORNING

by JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES, II

'Not a sparrow falleth to the ground . . .'

* * *

"The basic issue in the vast and urgent post-war problem is whether the nations are to achieve an essential minimum of organization and cooperation under law on a worldwide basis," declared The Age-Herald editorially yesterday, and hit a mighty nail on the head. Our hope of achieving this "essential minimum" depends, in this column's opinion, not only on persuading isolationists to accept it but also on discouraging controlled economists from frightening the public away by wanting to go so far beyond.

* * *

The menace to world organization and order after this war is going to be not only the isolationist but the American God-player who has a plan for every sparrow to keep it from falling or flying wrong.

* * *

Another menace will be the pietist who thinks peace can be secured by creating an atmosphere of love and white wonder. There must indeed be a new quality of mind and spirit among men if our world is to succeed but a way to lose all hope of that new quality is to presume its existence in the peace-making and neglect safeguards against the old-fashioned greed, fear and jealousy which will still be holding us this side of Paradise.

* * *

DEC 31 1942

Still another menace will be the sentimentalist who pretends to unities which do not exist and whose outcries against those who think the disunities should be faced alarm parties to the disunities away from associations which are possible nevertheless. For example, those who think we must admit no differences with Russia and whose protests against any recognition of them aggravate the fears of many that our country may be going Russian.

* * *

Never in history has idealism had a greater opportunity and necessity than now. Never has it been more capable, either, of destroying the thing it seeks by over-reaching itself or having no feet.

* * *

DEC 31 1942

A letter from our friend William Mitch (too long for reproduction here) makes the point against our Tuesday column on absenteeism that by not naming names it tended unjustly to discredit the whole of organized labor in spite of excellent current war production records. Specifically he objected to our mention of the absentee employe who bought an $80 bottle of perfume. We agree with Mr. Mitch that it wasn't fair to imply that all of union labor is so well-fixed and foolish as to be buying $80 bottles of perfume. We agree, too, that labor as a whole is doing a magnificent job of war production.

DEC 31 1942

* * *

A principle which has guided us throughout the war period has been that nobody should use the crisis to advance his own group's cause or discredit some other group's. We would never intentionally be party to any use of war feeling to harm the cause of organized labor in which we have believed all our life.

* * *

But why couldn't Mr. Mitch have put into his fine letter a few words of agreement with us against the absenteeism that does indeed go on and the waste of war production that results. In all friendliness we believe union labor's best weapon against the attacks that are being made on it now is not just hitting back but making such plays for public favor as a strong stand against absenteeism in wartime would represent.

* * *

There are many instances of labor loyalty and patriotism in this war's course. Damning absenteeism should not close our eyes to the other things. For example, every worker at one of the great war plants in Birmingham managed somehow to get through the floods and report for work last Monday morning. With transportation interrupted everywhere there was plenty of excuse for staying at home, but every man reported in spite of Hitler and high water.

* * *

One of the South's liberals with the smallest "l"—by which we mean the ones most genuinely liberal in the sense of standing for freedom in all its aspects—is Virginius Dabney, editor of The Richmond Times-Dispatch. His liberalism hits on all cylinders when he adds his voice to those who are saying the solution for the South's gathering political loneliness is not the aggravated loneliness of a new Southern party but development of a more vigorous Republican party by removing the stigma against voting for that party. "The first requirement is that Southerners disabuse their minds of traditional thinking, and vote for the candidate whose platform and party more truly represent their views . . ."

Birmingham Post
Birmingham, Alabama

The Only Way

The public generally will applaud the United Mine Workers' decision to return to their jobs in the Edgewater mine and to work out their differences with the management without further interruption of production. That is as it should be.

Nov. 14, 1942

With Americans fighting and dying on both sides of the world, life as usual, business as usual and strikes as usual on the home front are luxuries out for the duration. At such a time no dispute or grievance justifies the stoppage of work which contributes even remotely to the war effort.

The sensible way to settle differences between employer and employe at any time is around the conference table. Today, regardless of the nature of such differences, that is the only way and the stoppage of war production is to give aid and comfort to the enemy just the same as would the blast of a bomb planted by one of his own agents.

Birmingham Post
Birmingham, Alabama

WORK IS RESUMED AT EDGEWATER MINE

Nov. 14, 1942

Operations at the Edgewater coal mine of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Co. have been resumed following a brief stoppage due to a walkout by miners.

The miners returned to their jobs last night and any unsettled grievances will be taken up in line with the joint contract between the union and company, William Mitch, district president of the United Mine Workers of America, said.

Birmingham Post
Birmingham, Alabama

The Post Box

News and Views from the Editor's Mail Box

Birmingham Post

Dec. 12, 1942

Post Is 'Unfair,' Says Mine Workers' President

We have refrained from attempting to answer the several editorials appearing in The Post, all designed to discredit the United Mine Workers of America and John L. Lewis, as president. The reason we refrained was, first, because we recognize that you control the paper. Second, we recognize that the drastic change in the attitude of The Post, in fact all the Scripps-Howard papers, relating to the right of the workers, has become notoriously Tory.

I refer to an editorial appearing in The Post on Dec. 4. about the price of coal and why it is going up, also emphasizing that the miners are only working 35 hours per week.

The miners have agreed to work six days per week, and in the West they are even working seven days per week, and of course, our contracts provide for time and a half for overtime over five days, and our so-called seven-hour day actually means more than eight hours per day.

The Wage and Hours Division handled a case recently, through the Federal Court here, on the ore mine situation, and it was held that the day's work begins when the man enters the mine, and continued until he comes out, hence the miners are under that kind of an eight-hour basis.

There was a recent controversy at the Edgewater mine, of the T. C. I., where the miners entered the mine at 6:30 in the morning, the company holding the men did not work seven hours at their working places, which were miles under the ground. However, they went down into the mine in sufficient time to walk quite some distance to catch the mantrip which started at 6:30 at a point within the mine, and the regular starting time was 7 o'clock, but the company held that it required more than 30 minutes to get the men to and from their working places on the mantrip. The result was that a change was made, adding to the already more than eight hours per day, nine minutes in the morning and nine minutes in the evening. Taking the whole of the United States, the miners are actually in the mines from eight to nine hours a day.

We resent your editorial because it is using the war period to further the hysteria to take away labor gains made in the past.

Labor is not receiving a square deal, in fact, wage schedules have been frozen for some time, and the cost of living—well, you know what the cost of living has done, and if you do not, perhaps your wife does. Anyway, we know that the cost of living has advanced to the point where wages mean but very little to the workers.

Yes, the war is on; we know that. We know that the emissaries of corporate greed in this country would gladly put in the totalitarian program against labor and make us fight for love of country, the same as they do in Europe, but there seems to be some of the "cooler heads" who do not fall for this propaganda that is being put out by the press and over the radio.

Labor wants the democratic processes maintained. We know, and know definitely, that if any of our rights are taken away during the war period, they never will be restored. We hold there is no justification for all this propaganda against labor.

The miners and workers, generally, in this section are just as intelligent as you will find in the average section of the country, and Mr. Editor, they do not believe in a program of continuing to feed a dog that, everytime they go to feed him, he will bite them; therefore, we hope that you will realize that labor has its side as does the employer. However, our side has received but scant consideration in your paper, in fact, it has been the reverse.

WILLIAM MITCH,
President Dist. No. 20.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala

THIS MORNING

by JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES, II

'Not a sparrow falleth to the ground . . ."

* * *

"The basic issue in the vast and urgent post-war problem is whether the nations are to achieve an essential minimum of organization and cooperation under law on a worldwide basis," declared The Age-Herald editorially yesterday, and hit a mighty nail on the head. Our hope of achieving this "essential minimum" depends, in this column's opinion, not only on persuading isolationists to accept it but also on discouraging controlled economists from frightening the public away by wanting to go so far beyond.

* * *

The menace to world organization and order after this war is going to be not only the isolationist but the American God-player who has a plan for every sparrow to keep it from falling or flying wrong.

* * *

Another menace will be the pietist who thinks peace can be secured by creating an atmosphere of love and white wonder. There must indeed be a new quality of mind and spirit among men if our world is to succeed but a way to lose all hope of that new quality is to presume its existence in the peace-making and neglect safeguards against the old-fashioned greed, fear and jealousy which will still be holding us this side of Paradise.

* DEC 31 194

Still another menace will be the sentimentalist who pretends to unities which do not exist and whose outcries against those who think the disunities should be faced alarm parties to the disunities away from associations which are possible nevertheless. For example, those who think we must admit no differences with Russia and whose protests against any recognition of them aggravate the fears of many that our country may be going Russian.

* * *

Never in history has idealism had a greater opportunity and necessity than now. Never has it been more capable, either, of destroying the thing it seeks by over-reaching itself or having no feet.

* * 31 1942

A letter from our friend William Mitch (too long for reproduction here) makes the point against our Tuesday column on absenteeism that by not naming names it tended unjustly to discredit the whole of organized labor in spite of excellent current war production records. Specifically he objected to our mention of the absentee employe who bought an $80 bottle of perfume. We agree with Mr. Mitch that it wasn't fair to imply that all of union labor is so well-fixed and foolish as to be buying $80 bottles of perfume. We agree, too, that labor as a whole is doing a magnificent job of war production.

DEC 31 1942

* * *

A principle which has guided us throughout the war period has been that nobody should use the crisis to advance his own group's cause or discredit some other group's. We would never intentionally be party to any use of war feeling to harm the cause of organized labor in which we have believed all our life.

* * *

But why couldn't Mr. Mitch have put into his fine letter a few words of agreement with us against the absenteeism that does indeed go on and the waste of war production that results. In all friendliness we believe union labor's best weapon against the attacks that are being made on it now is not just hitting back but making such plays for public favor as a strong stand against absenteeism in wartime would represent.

* * *

There are many instances of labor loyalty and patriotism in this war's course. Damning absenteeism should not close our eyes to the other things. For example, every worker at one of the great war plants in Birmingham managed somehow to get through the floods and report for work last Monday morning. With transportation interrupted everywhere there was plenty of excuse for staying at home, but every man reported in spite of Hitler and high water.

* * *

One of the South's liberals with the smallest "l"—by which we mean the ones most genuinely liberal in the sense of standing for freedom in all its aspects—is Virginius Dabney, editor of The Richmond Times-Dispatch. His liberalism hits on all cylinders when he adds his voice to those who are saying the solution for the South's gathering political loneliness is not the aggravated loneliness of a new Southern party but development of a more vigorous Republican party by removing the stigma against voting for that party. "The first requirement is that Southerners disabuse their minds of traditional thinking, and vote for the candidate whose platform and party more truly represent their views . . ."

35i-1942

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

CIO DELEGATES BROACH ACTION AT CONFERENCE

MAY 30 1942

Suggest Appointment Of Joe Cook to Executive Board of Steel Group

MAY 30 1942

CLEVELAND, Ohio — Several dozen Negro steel union delegates attending the first national convention of the United Steelworkers of America united their forces and sought the elevation of a Negro to a high position in the union. Some wanted a Negro placed on the international executive board or as a direct assistant to Murray. In a caucus it was voted to back Joe Cook of Chicago for either post. Cook had impressed several of the delegates.

When the request was submitted to Murray who presided over a union holding 903 contracts with 90 percent of the steel industry, he asked to discuss the matter with the entire Negro delegation.

On Saturday morning Murray, attended by Van A. Bittner, David J. McDonald, Biddou, Jack Ziffe, met the delegation at Hotel Hollander.

Murray restated the C.I.O. policy of giving equal opportunity and treatment to Negro and white workers.

MAY 30 1942

He also explained that he, prior to the convention, had given a great deal of thought to the idea of appointing a Negro to an outstanding position. He felt that in this way he could assure Negro people and white people of the determination of the C.I.O. to stand by its policies. He, of course, wanted a competent man who could do a good job.

During the conference Murray did not commit himself on the Joe Cook nomination, but said Cook would be considered along with Daniel Wilson of St. Louis, who has the backing of an influential delegation from the South.

351-1942

UNITED TRANSPORT SERVICE OF AMERICA

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Redcap Union Elects Negro To High Post

One of the momentous announcements in the annals of labor history came last Thursday evening when Wilbur Townsend, international president, United Transport Service of America, told a meeting of redcaps at the American Legion Hall, 252 W. 138 st, that their national organization had been granted an international charter by the CIO. At the same time their president was elected to the executive committee of the CIO by that body meeting in Washington.

This was the first time a Negro international had been given a charter by the CIO and the first time a Negro had been raised to the governing council of any national labor organization.

The UCSEA (Red Caps), 6,000 membership, with 100 locals and holding over 30 labor contracts, announced at their recent conference their intention to affiliate with the CIO. This step seemed inevitable because of the CIO's attitude of no-discrimination against Negroes and because of the backing it gave the UCSEA in its fight to be included in the minimum wage law.

Although Negroes belong to many CIO internationals, the UCSEA is the only all-Negro unit.

JUN 30 1942

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

New CIO Executive Interviewed by PV

Never before in the history of the labor movement had a Negro been a member of the nation's labor inner councils until the United Transport Service Workers of America entered the ranks of the CI President Willard S. Townsend of the UTSEA automatically became a member of the CIO executiv board when the Negro organization, after five years of rapid development, affiliated with the CI recently. Chatting and joking with friends and fellow workers in his Hotel Theresa suite Thursda afternoon, Townsend didn't seem to take himself too seriously, not even when he discussed brilliant the intricacies of labor history and economics.

On the relation of labor to the Negro's future, he said:

"Since the majority of Negroes in the world are workers, their only escape from economic bondage and social disfranchisement is through organized labor. The Congress of Industrial Organizations has provided this specific avenue of escape."

Townsend, because of his beliefs, has refused many offers of jobs in industry and government which would pay him more than his present work. But this labor chief, who majored in chemistry at McGill University, Canada, and once worked as a bacteriologist, did not always feel about labor as he does now.

The industrial crash of 1932 helped to revamp his thinking. He took a course in labor economics under Paul Douglas at the University of Chicago, then returned to the railroad job he had held during his college days. There, with tips fewer and working conditions worse, he set about gathering Negroes from every branch of the service, organizing them in a group which now boasts a membership of 5,000. This was all done without financial assistance from any outside source.

Townsend feels about race relations in labor's ranks, that "there is a great need for a program of education for both white and Negro workers in order that they may understand how utterly interdependent one is to the other . . . So long as the ruling classes can keep the wages of the black worker at a low economic level, the white worker of necessity will be bound by that same differential."

Segregation in industry is also strongly disapproved by the UTSEA leader. Said he:

"The most vicious recent practice among Negroes is the setting up of a division of Negro workers by the Sun Shipbuilding Company in Pennsylvania under the supervision of Emmett J. Scott. It brings to issue two important factors. First, it is the forerunner of an active, strike-breaking agency. Second, it defeats the drive for full participation by Negroes in every phase of our social, economic and industrial life."

Here only for a brief visit, Townsend left for Chicago over the weekend where a reception at the Good Shepherd Center, Thursday, is planned for him by a committee which includes Marshall Field, Lewis Worth of Chicago U. and Edwin Embree of the Rosenwald Foundation—LR.

JUL 4 1942

35i-1942

UNITED TRANSPORT·SERVICE EMPLOYES OF AMERICA

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Brotherhood of Dining Car Employes Affiliates With UTSEA After Voting

WASHINGTON — (ANP) — Last week, the Brotherhood of Dining Car Employes voted unanimously to dissolve its organization and affilite its variods locals with the United Transport Service Employes of America. One of the oldest unions among this craft of employes, the brotherhood represents nearly 65 per-cent of the dining car employes in the southeastern area and several groups in the New England area.

NOV 28 1941

This voluntary move of the brotherhood to transfer their membership and bargaining rights to UTSEA is heralded as the first concrete, practical step on the part of railway service employes to present a common front against the ravages of insecurity, job displacement and discrimination, according to UTSEA spokemen.

J. P. Covington, named successored to R. B. Lemus as head of the dining car brotherhood at their recent convention, declared the affiliation move represented the unanimous sentiment of members of the organizations. "We feel the time has come for all railroad service employes to recognize the tremendous obstacles we face as individual bargaining units and sensibly face the task of creating sufficient organization power and influence to gain adequate security in ranks of all railroad personal service employes," he declared.

NOV 28 1941

Daily World
Atlanta. Ga.

Union Head Tells Plan

NOV 2 - 1942

Townsend Gives Job Report

By WILLIAM FOWLKES, JR.

Urging Negroes generally to unionize to protect their increasing gains in war industry employment or face the probable occurrence of ghts such as followed the first war with the return of white to "accustomed" jobs. Willard S. Townsend, president of the United Transport Service Employees of America, CIO, addressed a mass meeting of Atlantans Sunday afternoon at Ebenezer Baptist church.

25

Townsend, who also is a member of the executive council of the CIO, told his hearers that "during the last year the employment of Negroes by employers holding war contracts has been stepped up tremendously."

He attributed this to "the growing shortage of skilled and semi-skilled workers available for war employment," the President's Executive Order concerning the employment of Negroes in all war industry, and labor organizations. The labor leader admitted, however, that despite the gains a large amount of racial discrimination against the group in war employment still persists and that "results are seen in the fact that the number of Negroes on relief continues to be greatly out of proportion to their number in the total population"—about twice as many Negroes on relief as whites, generally.

NOV 2 - 1942

QUOTED REPORTS

In his prepared address, Townsend quoted reports from various surveys and war industries to show that the increase in the employment of Negroes has made tremendous strides. Nearly all the major aircraft factories now employ the group by the thousands, whereas only one had employed a handful of Negroes before the war. This also has been the case in ordnance and converted auto plants and shipbuilding, the speaker said.

Relaxation of restrictions formerly practiced by some trade unions against Negroes has been noted in a number of cities, principally in the North, the labor leader declared. It was stated that the Congress of Industrial Organizations has been principally engaged in seeking these relaxations and coming out in "active support of the Negro worker's right to war employment."

A committee which has investigated discriminations against the Negro in war industry is to make its report to the CIO national meeting in Boston next week, Mr. Townsend asserted.

NOV 2 - 1942

That southern states are far behind in training facilities for Negro labor was cited by the speaker as deterrent to the war effort.

Townsend recommend that the widespread existence of discrimination in employment of Negroes in many areas of the industrial war effort be tackled on three major fronts—employers who discriminate unions that discriminate and federal agencies that discriminate.

His program would include appointment of Negroes to Employment Service staffs in the Government setup and a more aggressive job of interpretation of Negro workers' qualifications, closer cooperation between State Employment Service and the Negro Manpower Service of the War Manpower Commission and an official statement from the Director of the Federal Security Administration forbidding the handling of war jobs orders that discriminate against any minority group.

Among unions, Townsend recommended the development of committees within both the AFL and CIO charged with the task of exploring the reasons and causes of discrimination against minority groups in America and the institution of corrective measures at the root; bringing about a greater participation on the part of the Negro in the labor movement, instituting a concerted drive on the part of the unions to push upgrading of qualified Negroes into skilled and unskilled jobs and seeking appointment of qualified Negroes on government agencies and boards.

LABOR NEEDS HELP

Townsend also urged that community organizations should go along with labor organizations in pushing the passage of stringent legislation embodying the principles of the Executive Order on Fair Employment Practices.

The Chicago leader was presented to the Atlanta audience by President Forrester B. Washington, of the Atlanta University School of Social Work, where a labor institute was conducted last week. Washington said Townsend represented the qualities or organizational ability, possession of personality, unselfishness and scholarship required of a labor leader. He revealed that the guest speaker had risen to his high labor council position from the ranks of red cap, pullman porter, boiler maker and organizer.

C. H. Gillman, white, president of the Georgia State Industrial Council, CIO, welcomed Townsend to Georgia and unionism as an aid t workers getting some of the "goo things in life." Security of worker is the CIO aim, it was stated. H said he felt the poll tax would soo be eliminated.

Other addresses were delivered b Ira De A. Reid, professor of Sociology, Atlanta, and Miss Frankie Adams, of the Atlanta University School of Social Work. Music was rendered by Graham Jackson, the Gammon Theological Seminary singers, and Mrs. W. W. Wolf. The Rev. M. L. King gave invocation and the Rev. C. D. Hubert, benediction.

President Townsend was presented to the Atlanta audience under auspices of Local No. 325, United Transport Service Employees of America and the Women's Auxiliary. James A. Moore, Jr., is president of the Atlanta local.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Labor Institute At Social School

OCT 30 1942

Under the leadership of President Willard S. Townsend, of the United Transportation Service Employees of America, beginning this afternoon at 2:00 o'clock and continuing until 1:00 o'clock Saturday afternoon, an Institute on Organized Labor as a resource in social welfare work will be conducted at the Atlanta University School of Social Work.

Recently elected to the General Executive Committee of the CIO, Mr. Townsend is the first Negro to have been appointed a member of the National Executive Committee of either the A. F. of L. or the C. I. O. He has been recently appointed by Philip Murray, President of the CIO, to study methods of removing discrimination against Negroes in labor. Associated with Mr. Townsend in a committee of two, also appointed by President Murray, is James McCrary, National Secretary of the CIO.

35

OCT 30 1942

The Institute on Friday is limited to students of the Social School and certain advanced students of labor problems in the University. On Saturday, it is limited to students of the Social School only.

Mr. Townsend is scheduled to address a public mass meeting Sunday at the Ebenezer Baptist Church, Auburn Avenue at Jackson Street at three o'clock. This meeting is being sponsored by the Atlanta local of the United Transportation Service Employees of America. This meeting is open to the public.

351-1942 VIRGINIA

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virgini

Janitors' Strike Threat Still Imminent; Seek Union Agreement With Agents

JAN 24 1942

Pay As Low As $20 Per Month Revealed Here

NORFOLK—With janitors in the majority of Norfolk's apartment houses standing pat in their demands for wage increases and recognition of Local 216, International Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers as a bargaining agency, developments in the threatened janitors' strike appeared to be marking as late as Thursday of this week.

Union officials who charged that janitors, in many instances, are being paid as low as $20 and $30 per month for taking care of large apartment houses, were still seeking a spokesman for the apartment owners.

Otto Hollowell, secretary of the Norfolk Real Estate Board, with whom officials of the union have sought to negotiate an agreement governing wages and general workin conditions, has announced that he is not authorized to act for the owners since he represents the real estate agents only.

JAN 24 1942

CENTRAL UNION BACKS JANITORS

Should a strike be called between 90 and 100 apartment houses will be affected, according to union spokesmen.

Meanwhile the Norfolk Central Labor Union with which Local 216, International Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers is affiliated, as an American Federation of Labor chapter, has thrown its support to the janitors.

At a meeting Monday night, the CLU voted to support Local 216 in its demands, according to C. S. Walker, secretary of the CLU. It was explained that in the event of a strike, no member of the central body "will do any work of any kind or description on, in or about the apartment buildings affected."

UNFAIR OWNERS AFFECTED

Union spokesmen made it clear, however, that no apartment house owner who is paying what is considered a living wage would be affected if a strike is called, but that picket lines will be formed before buildings operated by "unfair". owners.

J. E. Thornton, 4221 Bowden's Ferry Road, business manager for Local 216, told the Journal and Guide on Wednesday that approximately 165 janitors are actively affiliated with the local many of whom are paid as low as two and one half cents an hour on the basis of an 18-hour day. Janitors in the highest pay brackets receive only 13 and a half cents an hour for taking care of 36 to 40-family apartments, he said.

Under the terms of the new agreement drawn up by the union and presented to Secretary Hollowell, the union is asking for a 15 per cent wage increase based upon a sliding scale. Under this arrangement a janitor working in a six-family apartment would receive $30 per month. The increases asked for would bring janitors' wages to 15 per cent of the gross incomes derived from each apartment building.

INCREASES RETROACTIVE

The wage increases, according to the pact, would be retroactive to October 7 for all janitors employed in their present posts prior to October 1, 1941. All increases shall be figured on the basis of 15 hours per day the year around.

JAN 24 1942

Duties of the janitors as outlined in the agreement are as follows: to fire boilers, pull garbage and trash, clean halls and yards, fire escapes and boiler rooms and assist the tenants when called upon to do so. It is provided, however, that "no employee shall be required to do work outside his regular duties without extra compensation, such as cleaning windows, cleaning vacant apartments, or other work inside the apartments."

The new agreement provides further, that no employee may be discharged without thirty days notice, and shall be given the cause of his discharge in writing. Any such employee, however, may be let out of service for 30 days pending a hearing by a joint board of investigation composed of representatives of the union and officials of the Norfolk Real Estate Board. If the joint board finds the employee not guilty, "he shall be released on the job and paid for all time lost."

ONE YEAR AGREEMENT

The pact provided also that all real estate agencies must pay off on or before the first and fifteenth of each month.

JAN 24 1942

The agreement will be in effect for one year from the date of its signing by both parties concerned, but is subject to change after thirty days in writing.

Local 216, International Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers was organized about seven years ago, according to Mr. Thornton, and John R. Gilliam of 1011 Gault Street, member of the local's legislative committee. Efforts toward union recognition and negotiations looking toward an agreement were begun in 1934, it was stated. This year's effort, however, was the first made since 1937, it was explained.

It was explained also that while members of the union were rated by the Real Estate Board as janitors, their real classification should be "stationary firemen."

INTERESTING CASES

Meanwhile, an investigation by the Journal and Guide brought to light some interesting facts. The inquiry revealed that in some instances janitors are also furnished living quarters both for themselves and their wives. In one instance it was found that a janitor is being paid $20 per month for taking care of a 40-family apartment, while in another case the janitor is paid $60 per month as maintenance man for a building less than half as large. The general practice, it was found, is to allow a janitor to take care of more than one apartment house, but in most cases this necessitates the services of a helper which the janitor himself, must pay out of his meager earnings.

Robert F. Baldwin, Jr., president of the Norfolk Real Estate Board, in a prepared statement on Tuesday, expressed sympathy for janitors who are being underpaid and added that he regretted that the realty board could not bargain with union officials on behalf of apartment house owners.

TEXT OF STATEMENT

Mr. Baldwin's statement in full is as follows:

"There are, undoubtedly, a few owners of apartment houses who are not being fair with their janitors, and it is this group, taking advantage of the reasonable wages paid by practically every owner in town that is probably responsible for the efforts of the janitors to improve their position through a bargaining agency.

INCREASES GRANTED

"A survey of the leading managing agents in the city reveals that, without exception, janitors for these agencies hase been granted wage increases within the past few months, and it would appear the majority, at least, of janitors are receiving competent remuneration.

JAN 24 1942

"Many janitors are able to handle more than one building and in addition to this additional revenue they quite frequently do odd jobs for persons living on their biuldings.

"It is absolutely true that a janitor has long hours. He must, of course, rise early, during the winter, and get heat in his building. Remove the garbage and clean his hall. During bad weather he must attend his boiler several times during the day, and must bank his fire in the evenings. Taking the time at which the janitor gets his fire going in the morning until he banks it down at night he serves very long hours. Actually, however, the average janitor hardly averages four hours a day at each building.

SUGGESTION CONSIDERED

"The directors of the board, three weeks ago, considered the suggestion of J. E. Thornton, a janitor who claimed to represent the janitors. It was the unanimous opinion of the directors that the board could not and should not attempt to bargain with the janitors. The board's executive secretary, Otto Hollowell, was authorized, however, to suggest to the spokesman for the janitors, after explaining the board's position, to receive a proposal. Mr. Hollowell was further authorized to secure an opinion from the board's attorney, Wm. G. Maupin, as to the bargaining ability of the board as such.

"Mr. Maupin advised the board could not legally bargain with the janitors, and the janitors submitted a proposition to the board asking that the wages of janitors be fixed at 15 per cent of the gross income of buildings. Such a percentage would cause many buildings to operate at loss, after payment of taxes, water rents, coal bills, insurance and general upkeep.

JAN 24 1942

"As a matter of information, however, the subject will be reported and discussed at the next meeting of the organization's membership."

An Important Job for the War Manpower Commission

Daily Worker

DEC 12 1942

By James W. Ford

N.Y.-N.Y.

When the President established the Manpower Commission on Dec. 5 a major step was taken "to promote the most effective mobilization of the national manpower." The Commission is headed by Paul V. McNutt and is clothed with wide powers.

It has the power of "hiring, rehiring, solicitation, and recruitment of workers" for war production, and the selection of the number of men for the armed forces. It is empowered to establish policies for regulating and preventing gross hardships in hiring and recruiting of workers. It provides for the establishment of a labor-management policy committee and such other committees as may be appropriate and necessary. These are some of the essential operational policy provisions of the Manpower Commission. The Commission has full powers to execute these policies.

James W. Ford

Undoubtedly, this new Manpower Commission will enable the entire nation to render the greatest support to the offensive on the military field, providing the armed forces with the means for carrying the Second Front. The nation must be aroused to the fullest support of the Manpower Commission and thereby strengthen the hand of the President in leading the country in collaboration with our allies to victory over the Axis.

DEC 12 1942

ACTION ON JIM CROW

So far as the Negro people are concerned, the new Manpower Commission, offers unprecedented possibilities for eradicating discrimination and bottlenecks which have kept them out of maximum participation in industrial mobilization. Buttressed by the established policy of the government which was formulated in the President's Executive Order 8802 against discrimination, the Commission must immediately remove all technical restrictions and political taboos against colored citizens in industry and in the armed forces. One of the first problems to tackle is that of discrimination against Negro women in relation to employment in industry and in the WAVEs and the WAACs.

Some progress has been made in breaking down discrimination and securing employment for Negroes in industry. Both the government and the trade unions with the CIO in the forefront have developed policies and struggles against discrimination, resulting in thousands of jobs for Negroes in ordnance plants throughout the country. In shipbuilding they were employed in 37 different crafts. In the automobile industry, aircraft and others barriers were broken down against Negro workers.

DEC 12 1942

SOME FLAGRANT CASES

There still remain, in the South in particular, and in industries and plants throughout the nation flagrant cases of discrimination which are holding Negroes out of maximum participation in war production.

There are still disgraceful cases of discrimination against Negroes by trade unions, such as the scandalous situation at the Kaiser plant last summer, in which the notorious AFL organizer, Tom Ray, refused to admit Negroes into the local union.

There is the disgraceful situation in the railroad industry in which Negroes are denied job advancement. The railroad unions are the most notorious in barring Negroes by clauses in their constitution.

Discrimination against Negroes by trade unions is a problem of the entire labor movement and must be tackled and solved by it in the spirit of the CIO which brands discrimination as characteristic of our Nazi enemies.

PRODUCTION DECISIVE

All Americans regardless of race must be fitted into the production program for a total war economy to supply the armed and the civilian war needs. The utilization of every available man and woman according to his or her capacities in order punctually to meet the demands of our war needs is the first consideration of the nation.

It now rests upon the Manpower Commission, together with the trade unions and the entire nation to wipe out discrimination against colored citizens in industry by carrying out the powers given to the Commission by the Executive Order of the President.

DEC 12 1942

The Manpower Commission should immediately set up a committee representative of Negro people's organizations

Under the authority of the labor-management committee in every war plant it must immediately tackle the problem of employment of Negro labor, male and female without discrimination.

United States Employment Agencies must be forthwith instructed to place available Negro labor to work, giving immediate attention to those Negroes who have lost jobs through the abolition of WPA.

TRAINING FOR NEGROES

All training agencies must be immediately instructed to open adequate proportional training for Negro workers; plants must include an adequate proportion of Negro workers in their training programs; Negro youth must be accorded adequate apprenticeship opportunities; appropriations should be made to schools and colleges for training Negro youth for war-production industries.

A special board for hearing cases of discrimination should be immediately established.

The Selective Service Board should abolish discriminatory practices against Negro selectees; mixed military police (M.P.) personnel should be established at training and military centers.

An immediate ruling should be made for prompt and adequate promotion of Negroes in the armed services; and adequate training and promotion of officer personnel.

The Commission should make an immediate ruling on the enrollment of Negro doctors, nurses, and allied professionals in the armed forces.

DEC 12 1942

The Commission should take steps for providing adequate housing for Negro workers in industrial war centers without discrimination.